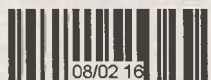


SOCCER

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WEEKLY **\$3.60**
GST INCLUSIVE

\$60,000 Continental Tyres Cup

By John Economos

THE CONTINENTAL TYRES CUP knock-out competition was launched last week at the Rydges Hotel at Parramatta, Sydney, in front of just over 100 guests that included Club officials from no less than 66 teams which will participate in this cash-rich Cup kicking off on Saturday 26th of this month.

The 66 teams that will battle for the Continental Tyres Cup is a cocktail-mix of sides from Soccer NSW's Division 1, 2, 3, plus teams from the Super and Premier Leagues.

The Cup Final will be played on Saturday May 21st with the eventual Winner not only snaring the Cup, but grabbing a cheque from Continental Tyres for \$20,000. The Runner-up will not leave the Stadium empty handed as they will receive a cash consolation cheque for \$8,000.

As well as the Cup Finalists, more cheques will be in the Continental pipeline.

Third and fourth place-getters will receive cheques for \$4,000 each, whilst quarter finalists each will receive \$2,000.

This will be the second consecutive year that Continental Tyres has sponsored the Cup plus cash prizes.

Continental Tyres is a prestigious name all over Europe in the automotive industry and in fact is an official sponsor with FIFA in the World Cup.

The new format for this year's Continental Tyres Cup is as follows:

- a) No teams will be seeded.
- b) The Premier League sides will only enter the Cup in Round 3, almost ala the England FA Cup.
- c) Round 1, which kicks-off on the 26th and 27th of this month, will see 18 matches played involving a mix of 36 teams from the Soccer NSW Divisions 1, 2 and 3.



Soccer NSW's C.E.O. Rob Waddell, ABSW's John Economos and Soccer NSW Director Ross Kelly.

d) Round 2 to be played on 2nd and 9th of March will involve the 18 Winners from Round 1 to take on 14 teams from the NSW Super League in 16 fixtures.

e) Round 3 sees the elite teams from the Premier League step into the Continental Cup competition. This Round will be staged on the 3rd and 23rd of March, again comprising 16 fixtures to take on the 16 Winners from Round 2.

And here the Cup really heats up as no less than 10 of the 16 Premier League teams have been drawn to clash with an opponent from their very own lofty League.

For example, in Fixture No 46, heavyweights Sydney Olympic will collide with none other than arch rivals Marconi, with Olympic holding home advantage.

The other four 'All-Premier League' clashes are:

Blue Devils vs Central Coast, Wollongong Wolves vs Parramatta Eagles, Bonnyrigg White Eagles vs Bankstown City Lions whilst Sydney Crescent Star, (Cup Winners last year in extra time over Bonnyrigg), take on Sydney United.

A dampening, disadvantageous factor to strike some of the Premier League teams, is a ruling recently handed down by the Football Federation of Australia.

The National ruling body has instructed that all players who have scored contracts with any of the new A-League teams, must cease playing for their State League teams as from the first of next month.

(See page 15 for full-draw)



All Stars promise attacking feast

NSW All Stars coach Branko Culina has promised an open, attacking style of play in the international friendship match against Libya, despite a dramatic late reshuffle in his line up.

On Monday, star goalkeeper Clint Bolton was called up for the Socceroos' match in South Africa, leaving the All Stars without the in-form keeper and his calming presence.

"There's no doubt the loss of Bolton will hurt us, purely because he's in such great form for A.P.I.A. and that confidence would have flowed to the defence," said Culina.

"In a game where everyone is being thrown together for a one-off match, we really need to quickly gel as a team and Bolton gave us that certainty and experience."

Sydney United keeper Liam Reddy is set to takeover Bolton's position, with St George keeper Andrew Crews

now joining the squad. Following the Bolton change, Luke Wilshire and Archie Thompson have re-entered the fold in Frank Farina's squad, while Josip Skoko and hardman Kevin Muscat have been ruled ruled out.

Tim Cahill is also in doubt and was having an MRI scan to determine the extent of an injury picked up in the match against Southampton last weekend. If Cahill isn't able to travel, Farina is likely to stick to 19 players for the match.

Culina has predicted a goal fest ahead of the state team's one-off showdown with Libya tomorrow night (Wednesday) at the Sydney United Sports Centre.

"It would not surprise me one bit to see this game end 3-0," said Culina.

"I am genuinely excited by the quality of the New South Wales team and we intend to turn it on this Wednesday night."

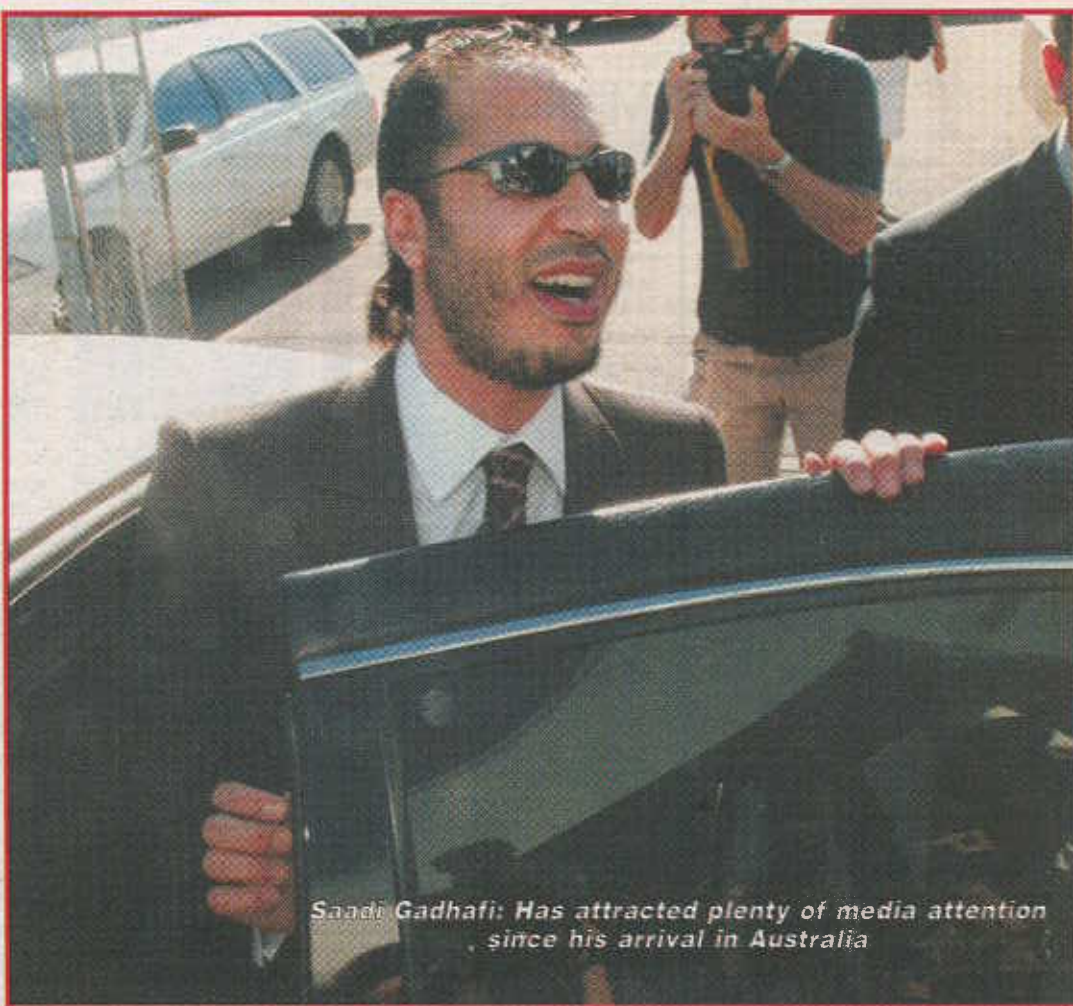
The Libyan team and delegation has made a splash around Sydney, with Saadi Gadhafi, the third son of the Libyan leader Colonel Muammer Gadhafi, attracting plenty of media interest as well as many high-profile government meetings in Sydney and Canberra.

Culina spent a busy Sunday afternoon casting his eye over the Libyan training session and was impressed with what he saw.

"They look to be a very fluid and cohesive side who use the ball intelligently," said Culina.

"They are currently second in their group for the World Cup and are in front of a team like Cameroon, so these guys know how to play football and score goals."

All tickets purchased at last weekend's NSW Premier League games have a bonus offer of free entry at Wednesday nights game.



Saadi Gadhafi: Has attracted plenty of media attention since his arrival in Australia

Colour Souvenir Official Match Programme Starts Page 11

NSW ALL STARS VS LIBYA WEDNESDAY 7.30PM EDENSOR PARK

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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Hamilton Academicals have released Aussie defender Iain Fyfe. The Australia U23 international was informed last week that he could leave Hamilton by boss Allan Maitland.



Iain Fyfe: The former Adelaide Force defender could be on his way back to the A-League

The decision came as a surprise as Fyfe's presence at the back for the Accies had coincided with their best form of the season.

But an influx of new winter market signings forced Maitland to release the young centre-half. After considering his options, Fyfe is returning to Australia to chase an A-League contract. Its understood New Zealand Knights and hometown club Adelaide United have both been alerted to the defender's availability.

★★★★

Middlesbrough goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer believes teammate and keeper rival Brad Jones has the talent to be a Premiership regular. Jones is understudy to Schwarzer at Boro and is currently playing on-loan at Blackpool.

Australia No1 Schwarzer said: "Brad's a great keeper - I definitely think he's good enough to play in the Premier League - but I don't know what he'll want to do.

"His contract is up at the end of the season and I'd be surprised if the club didn't want to keep him. But it will depend on whether he wants to leave - he might think his chances of playing regularly are better somewhere else."

★★★★

Cardiff City defender Tony Vidmar almost returned to former club NAC Breda on transfer deadline day.

NAC and Cardiff had agreed terms and Vidmar was in talks with Dutch officials on Monday, only for the deal to collapse hours away from the deadline.

Its understood NAC baulked at the Aussie's personal demands.

Borussia Monchengladbach had also been linked with the veteran stopper, while Cardiff

aussiesabroad

BY Mark Stavroulakis & Daniel Kuziow



Tony Vidmar: His move to NAC Breda went sour at the last minute

boss Lennie Lawrence said: "I know he's been disappointed not to play more regularly of late. "I want Tony to stay, of course I do, and would like him to stay for next season too."

★★★★

Livingston boss Richard Gough has released former club captain Stuart Lovell.

The Australia international midfielder has signed for Scottish First Division Queen of the South.

Lovell was contemplating on a move back to the Australia for the start of the A-League but has decided to give Europe one more shot.

★★★★

Empoli FC have continued their trend in signing Australians after recruiting 19 year-old Vedran Maric.

Born and bred in Sarajevo, Maric migrated to Australia with his family in 1995 and it was here he established firm connections



Vedran Maric: His services have been secured by Italian Serie B side Empoli

with the Bonnyrigg White Eagles, AC United and Fairfield Bulls.

Maric was also apart of the NSW State Indoor side that toured New Zealand in 2001 and

also starred in the World Championships in indoor held in Paraguay where he held it as one of his greatest honours.

In 2004, Maric was offered trials at Italian Serie B outfit Empoli.

He impressed the Italian side so much that they asked Vedran to return in February to sign on with the Primavera squad this month.

"I was ecstatic on the move, I really didn't think twice about going for trials, I just went over there did my best and was delighted that they liked what they saw.

"I will be going to Empoli in February where I've been asked that if I do well then they will extend my contract."

Maric joins another Australian player in Dez Giraldi who has done extremely well since his initial move to Italy.

★★★★

Scott McDonald admits helping Motherwell to this season's CIS Cup final was the best moment in his fledgling career.

The Aussie striker was outstanding in Motherwell's dramatic 3-2 extra-time win over Hearts on Tuesday night, winning a second-half penalty before setting up substitute Marc Fitzpatrick for the late winner.

McDonald and his teammates were celebrating well into Tuesday morning and he told tribalfutbol.com:

"To win a game that takes us to a Hampden final is an incredible feeling. To do so by having such a big influence is unbelievable.

"It was all the more special as my Mum and one of my brothers were over here for the game. To share this moment with my family is very special."

McDonald was judged one of Motherwell's star performers, but he played down his own influence:

"It was a magnificent night for the club and the fans.

"When we got back to Fir Park, the place was crammed with Motherwell supporters. The emotion on their faces said it all. Its been a fantastic couple of hours for us all.

"Even the gaffer (Terry Butcher) took part in a Mexican wave with the fans when we were back at the club!" The young striker has played in three junior World Cups for Australia, but admits:

"This is the best experience of my career. Absolutely no doubt about that. (Australia coach) Frank Farina was supposed to come and watch me last week, but he got held up. I wish he had seen me play, he wouldn't have left disappointed."

He concluded: "This is what you play professional football for. I'm so pleased I stuck at it after a difficult 2003. Motherwell has changed my career around and the CIS Cup final is something everyone at the club will savour."

★★★★

Racing Ferrol No1 Jose Bello Amigo admits he is flattered to be linked with Primera Liga giants Real Betis.

The Aussie shot-stopper is in his third season with Segunda Liga Ferrol and has caught the eye of Betis president Manuel Ruiz de Lopera.

"I found out about this story by the press and I view it as a rumour," said Bello Amigo.

"I don't know anything about it, but for me it is an honor and it motivates me to do even better for my club," the former St George keeper stated.

★★★★

Former Northern Spirit goalkeeper Paul Henderson has been praised by both managers following Bradford City's 2-2 draw at League One rival Barnsley.

The Bantams led 2-0 in a match shown live on TV in England, and although Henderson was then beaten twice as Barnsley fought back to



Paul Henderson has been a stand-out with Bradford City

snatch a draw, his impressive performance was the main talking point afterwards.

"He was magnificent all through the game and certainly kept them in it in the second half," Barnsley boss Paul Hart told the Telegraph and Argus of the Bantams goalkeeper.

Bradford City boss Colin Todd - who has preferred Bundesliga giants Hertha 3-2 following an own goal by Madlung.

Both Croatia international Simunic and Madlung admit to attending 'Cafe King', an establishment owned by the Croatian brothers but maintain they had nothing to do with the betting scandal.

★★★★

Liverpool's Harry Kewell is likely to need a hernia operation next summer if he does not take a break from international friendly games in the next six months, his manager has warned.

Kewell needs a break from the game and that Australia would be fortunate to have him available for any friendlies in 2005, ruling him out of the Socceroos' preparations to win a World Cup finals spot in Germany for the first time in 32 years.

"Realistically he should have a good rest," Bernie Mandic told



Australian TV network SBS.

"The physios have advised him to take a good eight to 10 weeks off. I would say you would be fortunate to see him twice in Australia."

The Socceroos are scheduled to play friendlies against South Africa in Durban on February 9 and Iraq in Australia on March 26. Kewell's summer should be dominated by the Confederations Cup in June, when the Socceroos face Germany, Argentina and Tunisia in the group stage.

But if an operation is required then, Kewell will miss the tournament.

"God forbid, if he has to have an operation in the off-season then obviously the Confederations Cup is out of the picture," said Mandic.

"That is the one he definitely wants to be part of and believes every player should be part of that.

"He views the Confederations Cup as critically important for preparations to the World Cup and he really would love to be part of that. "That for him is the priority next to the play-off match versus [a team from] South America."

★★★★

Josip Simunic and two other Hertha Berlin players have launched legal action against the German football magazine, Focus, for connecting them with the match-fixing scandal that has rocked the Bundesliga.

Focus magazine reported that the two Croatian brothers arrested over the match-fixing incident after police were tipped off by disgraced referee Robert Hoyzer, had mentioned Simunic, Nando Rafael and Alexander Madlung in relation to the crime.

The match in question was a cup tie between Hertha and Eintracht Braunschweig on September 22 last year, where minnows Braunschweig beat Bundesliga giants Hertha 3-2 following an own goal by Madlung.

Both Croatia international Simunic and Madlung admit to attending 'Cafe King', an establishment owned by the Croatian brothers but maintain they had nothing to do with the betting scandal.



Josip Simunic: Former Melbourne Knights star caught up in a match fixing probe

Queensland Roars into Hyundai A-League



The Queensland team in the new Hyundai A-League is today proud to unveil its new name and logo in conjunction with Hyundai at the Brisbane Motor Show.

The team, to be known as Queensland Roar FC, will play home games at Suncorp Stadium when the new Hyundai A-League kicks off

in August. The name has a generic connection to the Queensland Lions Soccer Club, who were successful in their application to Football Federation Australia for inclusion in the new eight team Hyundai A-League.

While the name Lions has been synonymous with the Richlands based club among football enthusiasts in

Brisbane, in the wider community the likelihood of confusion between football and AFL would have had a detrimental effect on the club's establishment in the Queensland sporting psyche.

The decision to change the name has also assisted the club in embracing Football Federation Australia's ideology of "New Football", giving the code in Queensland a fresh start and a new image to the many thousands of football followers in the state.

While maintaining a link to the past and the proud history of the Queensland Lions, the name Roar exudes confidence, exuberance, excitement and power. It is

making a bold statement which will be echoed by the club's activities on and off the field.

Assisting in the name change process was the Courier Mail who, in conjunction with the club, ran a statewide competition seeking suggestions for the new name. Queenslanders in their thousands took to the challenge, submitting a plethora of potential names. A brand new Hyundai car was on offer for the winner.

The club is embarking on an aggressive marketing campaign encompassing schools, clubs and the corporate world across the south east corner. Key target markets for the club are the foot-



Queensland Roar's C.E.O. Lawrence Oudendyk and his P.A. Elicia Baclov.

ball community, kids, the general sports supporters and event goers.

On-field success is equally important for the new venture to have a successful first year. Roar FC head coach Miron Bleiberg has put together an exciting mix of young talent and skilful experience.

The squad to date includes a mixture of Queensland, interstate and overseas players: Michael Baird (Sydney Olympic) Royce Brownlie (Brisbane Strikers) Karl Dodd (Brisbane Strikers) Chad Gibson (Marconi Stallions) Scott Higgins (Brisbane Strikers) Jordan Simpson (St George, NSW Premier League) Tyler Simpson (St George, NSW Premier League) Tom Willis (Newcastle United) Matt

McKay (Brisbane Strikers) Remo Buess (FC Zurich) Massimo Morducca (South Melbourne)

The squad will be finalised by the end of the

month with pre-season training commencing in March. Season tickets, membership packages and merchandise will also be available in the coming weeks.

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NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND TEN FIXTURES



-FRI 11 FEB

Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
Manly United FC	Bankstown City Lions	Cromer Park	8.15pm
Sydney United	Sydney Crescent Star	Sydney United Sports Centre	8.15pm

SAT 12 FEB

Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
Marconi Stallions	Blue Devils	Marconi Stadium	7.00pm
Penrith Nepean United	St George Saints	Cook Park (St Marys)	7.00pm
Central Coast United	A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	Central Coast Stadium	7.00pm
Rockdale City Suns	Wollongong Wolves	St George Stadium	7.00pm

SUN 6 FEB

Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
Sydney Olympic	Blacktown City Demons	Oki Jubilee Stadium	6.00pm
Parramatta Eagles	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	Melita Stadium	6.00pm



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A New League, New Era and New Glory

Today is yet another milestone in what has been an incredible journey for Perth Glory since the club was launched in December 1995.

The next phase for Perth Glory will be its most exciting where the club will reinvent itself and re-energise its effort to establish a strong World football culture in Western Australia.

"For too long football has only been a game played and viewed because of circumstance. Our commitment is to change this perception by creating the football culture that exists all over the world so that everyone can feel the passion and live the beautiful game", says Perth Glory Chairman Nick Tana.

The club last week unveiled many changes in front of over 1,000 supporters who attended the official club launch in a giant marquee on the middle of the playing arena at Members Equity Stadium. The changes were introduced to create a fresh

new start for the club in a new exciting era of Australian football.

The club will now be called Perth Glory Football Club reflecting the bold move by Football Federation Australia to own the name football.

Whilst the name has been a small change, the club logo and song received more attention.

The dynamic, contemporary new logo reflects a new era for the club in the Hyundai A-League. The stylish logo was developed in conjunction with FFA and follows their iconography using a large three-dimensional spherical ball shape as its dominant feature.

Whilst the name and colour remain unchanged, the logo has been executed in a more progressive way with the Glory's key brand values of passion, entertainment and desirability strong in mind.

The logo is not contained within any boundaries giving a more contemporary look

compared with a traditional badge or shield. On closer examination the ball can be seen to radiate highlight lines, which gives the logo warmth and energy.

The ball and rays are symbolically suggestive of the sun rising over a new era for the club and the game in Australia.

with its fans through new interactive forms of entertainment.

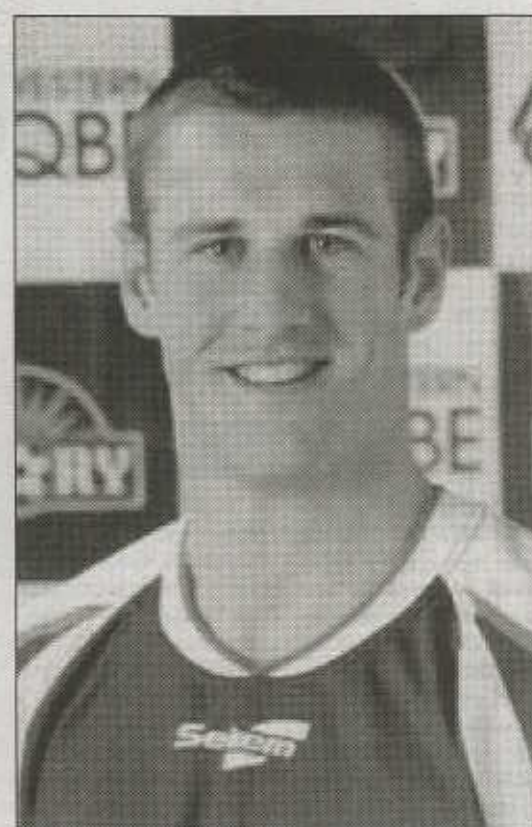
"The match day experience is essential for sports fans. We have always tried to deliver an exciting, colourful memorable experience for our supporters - for us it is much more than just a game of football. Everyone who attends

A.I.S. for the 2001/02 season and didn't take long to establish himself in the first eleven. He played 28 times for Perth Glory scoring 1 goal and winning one Championship.

A tall elegant defender whose reading of the game defies his tender years, Tarka quickly became a target for a potential overseas move, which came to fruition when he joined English First Division outfit Nottingham Forest in 2002. Things haven't gone according to script in the U.K. as injuries and representing his country have hampered his prospects of advancement at Forest.

Perth Glory moved quickly when it became apparent that Tarka may be available and is delighted to once again have on their books one of this country's most accomplished defenders in time for the upcoming Hyundai A-League season.

This takes the number of contracted players to 14 with 6 positions of the 20 player squad yet to be filled.



Perth Glory have regained the services of sterling defender David Tarka



The club song was also changed to a more contemporary, upbeat version whilst remaining true to its roots.

Other changes include the way the club presents its home match days. Considered as the leader in Australian sport for match day entertainment, the club will develop strategies to further engage

must feel that they received value for money from the time they decide to attend a game until they arrive home" says Perth Glory CEO Jeff Dennis.

The club also announced the signing of David Tarka for a 3 year term.

Perth native Tarka joined his hometown club from the

QANTAS SOCCEROOS LIVE ON SBS

Australia will line up against South Africa in Durban, in its first football international match for 2005. Although ranked twenty places behind South African, that only made coach Frank Farina's team hungrier for its ultimate 1-0 victory when it last met South Africa in London in March 2004.

This will be an enormous year for the Australian team as it prepares for its Confederations Cup onslaught in June and World Cup qualifiers in September and hopefully November, on the road to Germany and the FIFA World Cup in 2006.



South Africa, host of the 2010 World Cup, however, has qualified for the last two World Cups but this will be its only warm-up match before it restarts its 2006 campaign in March.

The Australian squad, announced late last week, which will take to the field at the ABSA Stadium will include:- Paul Agostino, Marco

Bresciano, Tim Cahill, Brett Emerton, Craig Moore and debutant Jason Culina.

In Sydney on Tuesday, the Premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr, also announced the Socceroos plan to play an historical international match against Iraq on Easter Saturday - March 26, 2005 at Telstra Stadium.

As the Official Broadcast Partner of the Socceroos, SBS Sport will present both internationals Exclusively LIVE.

The South African game - Thursday, February 10 will be hosted by Les Murray with Craig Foster in the Sydney studio and Simon Hill & Andrew Orsatti providing commentary and interviews direct from ABSA Stadium in Durban, South Africa.

Australia v South Africa

Thursday, February 10 @ 5:15am (AEDT)

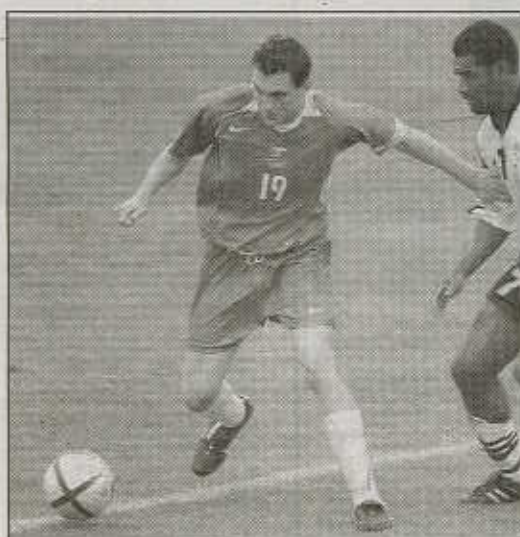
* NSW/ACT/VIC/TAS - 5:15am;

SA - 4:45am; QLD - 4:15am; NT - 3:45am; WA - 2:15am

Replayed: WA @ 4:30am & @10:00pm - all centres

Australia v Iraq

Saturday, March 26 @ 7:00pm (AEDT)



Queensland Roar for Max Vieri?

Roaring towards marquee Vieri?

Queensland Roar CEO Laurence Oudendyk says his A-league club would consider holding talks with Australian international star Max Vieri in an effort to lure him as their marquee player.

Oudendyk said Vieri, the younger brother of Italian superstar Christian Vieri, possesses the sort of drawing power the Roar were after but admitted money and coach Miron Bleiberg's blessing would be the determining factors.

"We'd talk to him alright," Oudendyk said after revealing the club's new name the Roar and logo at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

"It's all money at the end of the day and what he's worth in pulling power to us."

"He sort of fits the bill. He is an Aussie international."

Vieri, who made five appearances for the Socceroos during 2004, has been struggling for Italian Serie B side Ternana this season.

His Socceroos ambitions could see him lured back to his homeland for the A-league's inaugural season.

Bleiberg said a quality striker was an essential piece of the puzzle for the Roar to fill.

"Every position is important but a striker even more so," Bleiberg said.

Marquee players are not counted towards the clubs' \$1.5 million salary cap and some teams are rumoured to be willing to fork over as much as \$250,000 per season to secure a big name signing.

SOCCEROOS TO HELP TSUNAMI VICTIMS

Football Federation Australia this week announced that the Qantas Socceroos would play Indonesia in Perth on March 29 with proceeds going towards victims of the Asian Tsunami disaster.

"The Asian Football Confederation nominated Indonesia for this match and we are delighted to accept," said FFA CEO Mr John O'Neill from Perth where he attended the launch of Hyundai A-League club Perth Glory.

"Indonesia was heavily affected by the tsunami. There was a huge loss of life and we are pleased that we can follow the lead of the federal government by supporting our neighbours."

"Perth was seen as the ideal choice to host the match considering their close proximity to Indonesia."

"I'd like to acknowledge the support of the WA Events corporation for their willingness to assist in the staging of this international match. It's been a decade since the Australian team has played in Perth and we are certain there will be a big appetite for international football in Western Australia."

The Qantas Socceroos will have two home matches during the Easter period with an international against Iraq at Telstra Stadium on Saturday March 26 followed by the clash with Indonesia which is likely to be at Subiaco Oval on Tuesday March 29.

"The two matches over the Easter period

give us further chances to engage with our Asian neighbours," said Mr O'Neill.

"We have two national teams coming to Australia after much turmoil in their homelands and we look forward to welcoming them here."

Mr O'Neill confirmed that funds from the match would go into the FIFA/AFC solidarity fund which was established just after the disaster.



FOOTBALL
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The fund was created to concentrate on reconstructing the footballing infrastructure in the affected areas including the rebuilding of pitches and supply of equipment.

Australia (ranked 58th) has played Indonesia (ranked 91st) on 12 occasions with the Australians holding a 9 wins, two draws and a loss.

Viareggio achieved for another year

By Joe Russo

As another Viareggio International 'Coppa Carnevale' comes to an end, it is time to look back at the 9th Australian expedition to the world's most prestigious Under 20 tournament for clubs.

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers represented Australia for the third time at the Coppa Carnevale having previously participated in 2002 and 2003. Marconi Stallions were the first Australian team to participate at Viareggio having made six trips there from 1996 to 2001.

On balance it would appear that A.P.I.A., who conceded 13 goals without scoring any at the tournament, were not too successful. However, statistics can be deceiving.

On the whole A.P.I.A. played eight matches in Italy; lost six, drew one and won one. They conceded 24 goals and scored four. On average it was 3 goals per match conceded against 0.5 scored.

Juventus, Partizan Belgrade and Catanzaro of Serie B, were the three teams A.P.I.A. faced in the Coppa

Carnale. Pistoiese (Serie C1), Pisa (Serie C1), Carrarese (Serie C2), U.S. Stiva (non league) and Don Bosco (non league) provided the opposition in the friendly matches.

Clearly the best results came against the two non league sides; a 3-2 win over U.S. Stiva and a 1-1 draw with Don Bosco. However, given that A.P.I.A. toured Italy with a rather large squad of 26 players, it was necessary to experiment a lot in all the trial matches.

Coach John Romeo, who is also the Australian National Schoolboys coach, never really settled on a top 11 and often preferred to try different combinations against some rather fierce opposition at times.

Furthermore, despite some player reinforcements from Perth, A.P.I.A.'s Under 20 team is not as good as previous years when the team won four championships in five seasons. This year at the Under 20 level A.P.I.A. is going through a re-building phase.

Player of the Match for A.P.I.A. against Catanzaro was striker Ben Jenke, against

Partizan Belgrade it was defensive midfielder Martin Vass and against Juventus it was defender Gary Dal Broi, who also received the A.P.I.A. Player of the Tournament award.

While Dal Broi, Jenke and Vass were clearly amongst the best players on tour, it was three others that managed to secure trials at lucrative clubs. Eric Papaiani will trial at Catanzaro, Dalibor Savic at Partizan Belgrade and Julian Borgiani at Triestina.

A.P.I.A. faced their hardest group ever and arguably it was the toughest group that any Australian team had ever been drawn in. In 2002 A.P.I.A.'s pool included Vicenza, Piacenza and Cittadella, whilst in 2003 it was Napoli, Reggina and Cosenza. Clearly 2005 was much more difficult.

In 2006 A.P.I.A. will return to Viareggio a lot wiser from their trip this year. President Tony Raciti has promised that things will be fine tuned and coach John Romeo believes he will be even more prepared for Viareggio 2006 given the team's experiences this year.

Murphy goes ahead with Perth Glory legal action

Shaun Murphy will meet Perth Glory in court after receiving strong legal advice in favour of his \$1 million claim against the national league club.

The former Glory captain has his two season deal with the club terminated after just twelve months when the struggling National Soccer League was brought to an end. Murphy claims his contract included a clause relating to a new national league competition and that he would not have ended an eleven-year professional career in England without the security of a two-year deal with Glory.

"I'm disappointed in the way it's all been handled," said Murphy, whose prefer-

ence is to settle the issue without legal action. He is claiming around \$850,000 for money he would have received had he stayed at Sheffield United as well as around \$150,000 for the remainder of his Glory contract.

Meanwhile Sydney FC are chasing former Racing Central and Racing Santander attacking midfielder Maxi Estevez. A former Argentina youth international, Estevez is currently with Olimpia in his homeland but could be signed for the World Club Championships playoffs, says the *Sun-Herald*. Tokyo Verdy coach Ossie Ardiles is said have recommended Estevez to Sydney assistant coach Ian Crook.



Shaun Murphy: Former Socceroo will go legal against his former club Perth Glory



Frank Farina: His job as number one at the Socceroos helm is safe

FFA chief O'Neill: Farina's job is safe

Football Federation of Australia chief John O'Neill says Australia coach Frank Farina's job is safe for this year's World Cup campaign.

"Frank Farina's job is assured," O'Neill told the *Sun-Herald*. "He has a contract that's been in place since the end of the last World Cup campaign and goes through to the end of the current campaign."

"The contract is specific. It expires at the end of our World Cup campaign. If we don't qualify in November, that's the end of our campaign. We don't want to distract the coach. We want a coach who has job security and can get on with it."

It also been confirmed that French duo Jean Tigana and Manuel Amoros have both expressed interest in Farina's job.

The Tigers Junior Soccer Club Inc.

2005 Registration for Players Applications for Managers and Coaches

The above Club is seeking Managers, Coaches and players in all the below listed age groups.

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Coaching Applications close 28th February 2005

(Please note that the Club has 4 teams in each age group)

Registration for 2005 now open on the following dates:

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- Tuesday February 15 & 22
- Wednesday February 16 & 23
- Thursday February 17 & 24
- Friday February 18 & 25

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FERRANTE FEVER TO HIT THE VICTORY

At just 23 years of age, Michael Ferrante has returned to Australia after a successful stint overseas with the West Ham Youth team and Benevento in Italy.

Having been lured back home by the new A-League, Ferrante is delighted to be a part of Melbourne's new, professional football set-up - Melbourne Victory FC. John Bonacci caught up with Michael Ferrante and discussed his aspirations with Melbourne Victory.

Congratulations on signing for Melbourne Victory. You must be pleased to have been one of the first few signings?

I had been talking to the club before Archie had officially signed, and it was pretty much a done deal straight away. The whole time I'd been back from overseas I'd been waiting hopefully for the phone call. I'd been waiting for six months and when the call came, I wasn't prepared to stuff around and negotiate ridiculously. I'm just happy to have been selected.

Describe your amazing West Ham days, and winning that lucrative FA Youth Cup?



Michael Ferrante: Melbourne Victory's promising midfielder

We had an amazing team, and people were saying we were going to be the next Manchester United. That was the talk of the whole of England. The thrill wasn't just the actual final, but the whole tournament was special. We were beating teams like Arsenal and Everton five nil and we were unstoppable.

Did that tag of the next best thing in English football put any added pressure on the lads?

It did, but we were incredibly confident and pretty arrogant really. In the final, we'd beaten Coventry 3-0 in the away leg, and then with the tie practically sealed, we won 6-0 at home in front of a sellout crowd of 26,000 at Upton Park. That's the sort of team it was, and I was lucky enough to captain that team. We had Joe Cole, Michael Carrick in the team, and Frank Lampard and Rio Ferdinand were a year older. I made some great friendships with guys I still catch up with.

How crazy was Paolo Di Canio?

He was a weird guy. He was so professional that he was crazy. That is how he was. Most of his outbursts regarded the professionalism or lack thereof. He was passion personified. I was fortunate enough to be able to speak Italian to get to know him a little better than most, and we spoke for hours about Serie A and his days at AC Milan.

So it sounds like you learned a great deal from the experienced heads at West Ham.

Absolutely. Ian Wright was the best example. As much as he looked like a larrikin on the pitch

with the things that he did and the way he celebrated his goals, he was the ultimate professional. The guy who freaked me out the most was Frank Lampard, and the amount of extra training he'd do on his own was the most amazing thing I'd ever seen. I'm not surprised he's been Chelsea's best player for the last two years and is scoring goals regularly.

You then moved to Benevento in Italy. How was that experience?

In England, I was a big ball player, but my physical fitness was probably my flaw there. Lately I've been able to correct that, so I might be referred to as a late developer. I'd tried out England, so then I thought I'd give Italy a go. I don't like putting things down, but State soccer in Australia that I've played recently doesn't compare with what it was like in Italy. There were players who played in Serie A and B, and guys who played 300 games in Serie C, so that made it a better league. What was amazing was the stress and the mental game in Italy. A Serie C1 team would do well against most teams in the world.

You were one of the youngest members of the Joeys and Young Socceroos. How important was being selected at that young age for your confidence?

When I went to the Under 17 world cup qualifiers, I was only fifteen which was an incredible experience being one of the youngest guys. It happened again with the Under20s, when I was one of the youngest. Making the national team is amazing. I earned it three times, and it was an amazing thrill.

What was your first recollection of Melbourne Victory?

I was here when they won the bid. I made my decision to come back when the announcements were due to be made for the new A-League, which was meant to be last year. I came back in hope the new league would be announced straight away, but it happened late in November. I was rapt that Melbourne Victory got the nod, because it seems that they have the right people on board.

You must have a good working relationship with Ernie Merrick from your days at the Victorian Institute of Sport?

I had Ernie as a coach from when I was 13 years old. I've played under him for some time and it was fantastic when he got appointed. Thankfully enough, he knows what I am capable of, and hopefully I can repay him for his confidence in me.

Are you excited by the opportunity of playing with Archie Thompson?

Michael Ferrante Profile

Date of birth:	28th April, 1981
Birthplace:	Melbourne
Height:	171 cm
Weight:	70 kg
Preferred position:	Centre midfield
Former clubs:	Fawkner (VPL), Benevento (Italy), West Ham United (England), Victorian Institute of Sport
International honours:	Australian Under 17 (1997) and 20 (1999, 2001) representative
Most memorable match:	FA Youth Cup final (9-0 aggregate win)
Match day superstitions:	None

I joined Melbourne Victory because...
I want to win the A-League in front of my home Melbourne crowd.

My greatest football achievement is...
Winning the FA Youth Cup and making the bench for the West Ham first team.

If I wasn't a footballer I'd be...
I really don't know the answer to that one.

What team do you select when you play FIFA soccer games?
I usually pick Real Madrid.

What is the most you've paid for yourself in a manager game?
I can never buy myself, West Ham were always reluctant to sell me.

What did you do in the last 12 months waiting for the A-League to start?
I played Victorian Premier League for Fawkner.

What is the last football shirt you bought?
I bought a Pescara shirt in 1999.

Funniest rumour you've heard of yourself?
I can't say I've ever heard a rumour about me.

Childhood football idol?
Roberto Baggio.

Favourite current footballer?
Zinedine Zidane.

What do you get inspiration from?
Music, my family and scoring goals.

Do you watch footballers' wives?
Nah, it's all false.

What message do you have for Melbourne Victory fans?
You have to come to games, simple as that!

I'm going to go as far as saying that behind Mark Viduka and Harry Kewell, Archie is one of the best Australian strikers going around. I'm not being biased, because I've always said it and will continue to say it. He's exciting, quick, scores goals, and has just about everything a good layer needs. I'm looking forward to playing with him, and hopefully he is looking forward just as much to playing with me.

If no A-League offer came about, what were your plans in 2005?

I would have given the VPL another shot with Fawkner, and would have showed the A-League clubs what they missed out on. Now that I have this chance, I want to do as well as I can, and if all goes well, I'd like to see out my career with Melbourne Victory.

Beefed-Up Bafana Take No Chances Against Socceroos

National team coach Stuart Baxter decided not to take any chances yesterday, and named a full-strength Bafana Bafana squad for the keenly awaited international friendly against Australia.

Baxter called up most of his overseas-based stars to counter Socceroos coach Frank Farina's decision to name a 20-man squad exclusively made up of European-based players.

Explaining his decision to call up the big guns for the encounter, Baxter said he selected the team with SA and Australia's long-running sporting rivalry in mind.

"The Australians think that they are better than SA in cricket, rugby and now in soccer," the Briton said, referring to Bafana's disappointing 1-0 defeat against Australia in London last March.

"Australia does not do friendly matches and that means this is going to be an intense game."

FC Porto and 2004 African Footballer of the Year nominee Benni McCarthy will lead an impressive line-up that includes Manchester United star Quinton Fortune, Ajax Amsterdam midfielder Steven Pienaar, FC Copenhagen attacking midfielder Sibusiso Zuma and Austrian-based Jabu Pule.

Pienaar's inclusion in the side raised a few eyebrows as police reportedly arrested the 22-year-old player in Diemen, near Amsterdam, this week for alleged domestic violence.

The youngster's girlfriend apparently opened a case against him, but Baxter said he and Ajax Amsterdam coach Ronald Koeman assured him that Pienaar was the victim.

"Steven was the victim of an angry lady and has done nothing wrong," Baxter said.

He appealed to the media and the public to give Pienaar space when the player arrived for the encounter next week.

Surprisingly, Baxter said the overseas-based players were so desperate to come back home and fight for the cause that some of them made tough sacrifices.

For example, Germany-based Delron Buckley insisted on honouring his call-up even though his club, Arminia Bielefeld, plays against Bundesliga giants Bayern Munich three days after the Bafana encounter.

Fortune has a nagging injury but the left-footed player told United manager Alex Ferguson that his country needed his services in midfield.

Ferguson was apparently so impressed by Fortune's impassioned speech that the player was given permission to play without any restrictions for Bafana.

South African Football Association CEO Danny Jordaan said proceeds from the match would be donated to the survivors of the tsunami disaster, and also to the victims of the KwaZulu-Natal floods and Cape Town fires.

Goalkeepers: Moeneeb Josephs (Ajax Cape Town), Calvin Marlin (SuperSport Utd)

Defenders: Siphwe Mkhonza and Cyril Nzama (Kaizer Chiefs), Bradley Carnell (Karlsruhe/GER), Aaron Mokoena (Blackburn/ENG), Nasief Morris (Panathinaikos/GRE), Thabiso Rammile (Mamelodi Sundowns)

Midfielders: Gift Leremi and Benedict Vilakazi (Orlando Pirates), Delron Buckley (Arminia Bielefeld/GER), Quinton Fortune (Manchester Utd/ENG), Steven Pienaar (Ajax Amsterdam/NED), Jabu Pule (SV Matteraburg/AUT)

Strikers: Tyren Arendse (Pirates), Shaan Bartlett (Charlton/ENG), Benni McCarthy (Porto/POR), Sandile Ndlovu (Dynamos), Siyabonga Nomvete (Empoli/ITA), Sibusiso Zuma (FC Copenhagen/DEN)



from the

dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis



Back for 2005

Well football lovers, its back again, ABSW's weekly gossip column 'From the Dressing Sheds' has finally come back after an extended absence.

In 2005 for football in Australia has been classed as the year of all years for the sport so rest assured that the entire crew at ABSW will keep its readers updated with news from local and abroad.

Here's to a thrilling start to the A-League in August

Zelic or Okon for Newcastle?

Newcastle chairman Con Constantine is currently counting on which former Soccerroo star in Paul Okon or Ned Zelic will eventually sign up with the Newcastle Jets.

Its no secret that the pair aren't known for being the best of friends leaving the door open for just one of the two signing up with the club.

The Novacastrians have already shaped up as one of the most-fiercest squads in the A-League will also be awaiting the news of their new coach.

Jean Paul de Marigny looks as though the assistant moniker currently travelling on his identity could possibly be replaced by becoming the head coach.

Constantine has stated though that Terry Venables will be coming to Oz very soon but ABSW is led to believe that he will come in the form as an assistant.

Thompson not seeded

One alarming absence from Frank Farina's Soccerroo squad is that of star Belgian striker Archie Thompson.

Currently on fire with Belgian side Lierse, Archie has been in great form up front notching up eight goals in as many matches.

The former Carlton man's name should have been one of the first to be included on Farina's list but its believed his spot was taken up by Max Vieri who is currently playing in the lower leagues in Italy.

Ambitious FFA closer to a national HQ in Sydney

The dream of a national football headquarters being based in Sydney is a step closer to reality following the decision by the world governing body, FIFA, to approve a grant under its Goal Project scheme.

Football Federation Australia has been given \$US400,000 (\$516,400) towards the construction of an administrative headquarters, but chief executive John O'Neill wants the project to proceed on a grander scale.

A further \$US400,000 in FIFA money is available under the scheme to build a training academy attached to an office building, while O'Neill wants both Soccer NSW and A-League club Sydney FC to come on board to create a bigger facility. O'Neill has not ruled out a redeveloped St George Stadium at Kyeemagh being the location for the project.

"There's a lot of common sense in having one home for football in this country," O'Neill said.

Wolves and South Melbourne want A-League acceptance

With the A-League opening its doors to the football public in August, already a swarm of clubs have flocked FFA in a bid to have a chance in playing in the hugely anticipated competition.

Both the Wollongong Wolves and South Melbourne have put their hands up in joining the league after its initial five year plan with the current eight A-League clubs however the New Zealand Knights might not last the distance.

It is believed that the Knights will look towards establishing themselves for their debut season before overlooking its proceedings for the following year.

Enter South Melbourne or the Wolves? Both clubs have showed that they do have what it takes to become apart of Australia's elite.

South Melbourne's patriotic crowd were on song during their first match in the Victorian Premier League against Heideberg with an amazing 13 plus thousand flans who flocked to see them draw nil-all at Bob Jane Stadium.

President George Donikian has pledged to their fans that the club does have a goal in reaching the A-League in some part of their future.

Meanwhile down the South Coast, the Wolves' Doug Symes has also stated that there are plans for headlining an assault in the A-League very soon.

Currently drawing up world class facilities down at the 'Gong, the club is looking forward to its local support in getting them back up there once more.

Young Soccerroos Experience

During the recent Oceania World Youth Qualifiers held in the Solomon Islands were once again Australia dominated proceedings by beating the host nation 3-0, some alarming statistics came out of Honiara.

Starting off with the Young Roos' 19-0 thrashing of Tonga, Melbourne Victory's Vince Lia explained that the team knew straight from kick-off that a footy score was going to be on the cards.

"After we had scored one of the first few goals, the opposing side took one of the most bizarre kick-offs we've ever seen.

"Instead of playing the ball to the other striker in the centre circle, one of the guys just took the ball himself straight from kick off and started dribbling towards us." No doubt an experience Ange Postecoglou's side will never forget.

The team will now pack its bags for Holland but before the World Youth Cup will embark on a final European camp.

Its believed that West Ham player Trent McClenahan will be captaining the Young Soccerroos squad.

Korean impresses Lions

Queensland Lions coach Miron Bleiberg says his club is close to securing the services of flashy Korean midfielder Tae Young Shin.

Shin is expected to ink a lucrative deal with the A-League club in the next couple of days after forging a lingering impression during the opening game of the Silver Boots pre-season competition in Brisbane.

Bleiberg said he hoped Shin's creative-ness and flair would give Brisbane a boost when the new league kicks-off in July.

"He's a playmaker," Bleiberg said.

"(The midfield is) a vital position so if some other teams have a local playmaker and if we have an international playmaker, maybe it will give us an edge."

Shin could soon be joined in the Lions den by compatriot Coseo Jung Won who is set to trial with the club later this month.

Bleiberg said clubs all over the world were beginning to flirt with the notion of signing Korean players after their national side performed so admirably during the 2002 World Cup.

"I think the World Cup is a good enough excuse to consider them," he said.

"We've hosted a few Korean teams over the years during the pre-season and they're disciplined, you can see the way they handle themselves."

"I wasn't surprised they made it to the semi-finals (at the world cup) because you could see the quality."

A-LEAGUE WEBSITES

A must bookmark for any crazed cyber fan on the Internet is that of the A-League's club websites.

Keeping its new fans updated with what is happening at the moment at their clubs, below is a list of the following sides that can be contacted via the Internet. Happy surfing

Adelaide United — www.adelaideunited.com.au
Central Coast Mariners — www.ccm Mariners.com.au
Melbourne Victory — www.mvf.com.au
Perth Glory — www.perthglory.com.au
Queensland Roar — <http://qldlions.com>
Newcastle United Jets — www.newcastleunited.com.au
New Zealand Knights — www.footballkingz.co.nz
Sydney FC — www.SydneyFC.com

Sydney FC delighted with membership response

Sydney FC's front office is delighted with the response its website is receiving from new fans. Hundreds of enquiries about membership packages are being received through the club's official website, SydneyFC.com, every day as the club kick starts into action with preseason training just around the corner.

New American signing Alejandro Salazar has also sparked interest, with his arrival creating a wave of publicity in the electronic media this week and also leading to a marked increase in enquiries in recent days from fans. Salazar, who turned down the MLS draft to take his first pro deal with Sydney FC, will be launching a regular column on tribalfutbol.com in the coming weeks.

Adshead appoints Mason as Assistant at New Zealand

New Zealand Knights Football Manager John Adshead has moved quickly since his arrival back in New Zealand, announcing his Assistant Coach at a press conference in Auckland last week.

Adshead, speaking for the first time in his role as Football Manager, said the appointment was not a difficult one to make.

I have for some time considered that Tommy Mason would be ideal to work with me at the Knights but had to wait until my return to talk with him about the role and how I see us working together. That discussion proved most beneficial and confirmed that Tommy is everything I am looking for in an assistant. He has been working here at the coal face, knows the local scene and players, has a coaching background in non-league football in England and displays the commitment and loyalty I am looking for. I am pleased to announce today that I have got my man.

Mason himself is looking forward to what he sees as a fresh start with a new organisation.

I am honoured that John has selected me above others for the role and look forward to rolling the sleeves up and working towards making the Knights the success that I know they can be.

Knights Chairman Anthony Lee and Adshead signed his contract in front of the media today, with the just returned former All Whites coach not about to waste time waiting for the ink to dry before searching for playing talent now that he has made his first appointment in Mason.

Anthony Lee emphasized the new era and new attitude that the Knights are taking as they prepare for the Hyundai A-League, commencing in August this year.

This is an organisation that will make decisions and make them decisively. The feedback since Johns appointment has been extremely positive and the Board is thrilled that John has acted so quickly and is totally supportive of his choice of Tommy Mason.

Greeks launch DVD protest

GREEK First Division club Iraklis Salonika will give fans free DVD's showing bad refereeing decisions at their next home game.

Club officials said the five-minute DVD will show 20 "bad calls" made against financially struggling Iraklis, and name the referees involved.

Iraklis said the DVD is a form of protest, claiming the team has been "punished" by referees' decisions this season.

The move was sparked by a controversial 2-0 Greek Cup loss to Olympiakos Piraeus on Wednesday.

"They should have told us from the beginning about the result so that we would not have gone into the trouble of coming to Piraeus and wasted so much money as the team has its economic problems," said team spokesman Apostolos Tsourekas.

Tsourekas said that due to the poor officiating, the team finds itself out of the cup and in 10th place in the league.

He said a club committee has managed

to collect donations of 100,000 euros (\$168,000) to pay running expenses and players' salaries.

Iraklis announced the team could only pay for five private security guards for the next home match with PAOK Salonika last Sunday instead of the usual 100.

Perth boss targets World Club cup

Former England midfielder Steve McMahon is planning to take Perth Glory to the World Club Championship after taking over as manager at the Australian club.

The former Liverpool great has been handed a one-year contract by Glory and has immediately set his sights on taking them to the revamped world tournament in Japan in December.

McMahon, who left Blackpool last summer, will first lead Glory in a competitive match when they face either Sydney FC or Queensland in a knockout World Club Championship qualifier on May 11.

If Glory win that match they will then contest the final in Adelaide for the right to represent Australia at the Oceania qualifiers in Tahiti in June.

The Oceania champions will have a spot in the newly-restructured World Club Championship in Japan.

McMahon, who won 17 England caps and played in the 1990 World Cup, has promised to speak candidly to his players.

"If it's a crime to be honest, then I'm guilty," McMahon told the West Australian newspaper.

"I try to tell it as it is and if I don't think certain players are doing enough, I'll tell them. And I'll change things if I have to."

"I like to think I've been successful as a player and a manager and hopefully I can bring that to Perth."

McMahon has already identified the need for a goalkeeper, a midfielder and striker to fill three of the seven spots still available in Glory's 20-man squad.

With the Hyundai A-League starting in August, he has vowed to build a team capable of playing attacking football, though he is unlikely to lose sight of the ultimate goal.

"It's no good having the best footballing team if you're getting beat every week, so you've got to have a happy balance of playing well and the right system," he said.

"There's a way to play but there's a way to win as well and Australian people in general are winners. I think that will suit me down to the ground."

Elrich targeted by Mariners

Promising Sydney Olympic speedster Tarek Elrich is said to be on the cards at A-League side Central Coast Mariners it was confirmed last week.

Like Sydney FC, the Mariners could conduct a trial period for selected players set to fill the final spots at the club.

Tarek has impressed the Mariners entourage of Lawrie McKinna, Ian Ferguson and Alex Tobin as the trio have been spotted at various matches at OKI Jubilee Oval.

The 18-year-old has been in great form for the Blues and could be one of the Mariners final signings.



Victorian Premier League

Green Gully downs Sunshine Georgies

By Alan Clark

Green Gully Cavaliers defeated Sunshine Georgies two-one in the VPL match of the day at Green Gully Reserve on Sunday. It was a typical derby game: a decent sized crowd, a tight contest, and some bite in the tackles.

Nick Tsaltas opened the scoring for Gully after just five minutes, Brett Gilmour brought Sunshine Georgies level less than ten minutes later, but it was Roddy Vargas' goal just before the break that was to prove the winner.

Green Gully coach Ian Dobson was delighted with the win which puts Gully at the top of the league. "To get the first two wins on the board is a great start," he said after the match.

"The main thing for us was to be competitive," said

Sunshine Georgies' coach Chris Taylor. "I thought we acquitted ourselves well today and showed we could match it with Green Gully (which is) a yardstick of the league."

"I thought it was an even game, possession-wise and chance-wise," said Taylor. "I'm disappointed that the two goals conceded came from sloppy mistakes, but that's what we have to work at and be a bit more disciplined. I can take away a lot of positives from today's game, there were good signs there and I don't think we're going to be an easy-beat side."

The scene was ripe for this second round derby between these two proud creations of Melbourne's Maltese community. Both had managed wins in the first round: Green Gully over Melbourne Knights, and Sunshine Georgies over St Albans.

The opening goal arose just five minutes in. Roddy

Vargas rose like a salmon at the far post to meet a deep cross and send his header to the edge of the six-yard box where Tsaltas gleefully volleyed home. It was a classic goal - the deep cross cut out the congestion of mid-field, Vargas' downward header back and across the face of goal is next to undefendable, and Tsaltas was in exactly the right position to hammer in.

Georgies equalised before the quarter-hour. Trent Waterson took control of a ball on the left, midway into Green Gully's half after Gully's midfield had been hustled off the ball. As he came inside he lessened his chances of making an effective disposal with his left foot, and as he clearly preferred his right, it seemed that he'd been manoeuvred out of the danger area.

However, even with the angles diminished, he found Brett Gilmour with his right

Gilmour must have been surprised at the space he was in just twelve metres out and directly in front, but he coolly side-footed past an exposed Pasi Schwalger into the net.

Roddy Vargas restored Gully's lead with a shot blasted into the net from ten metres after two efforts from Ante Kelic had been blocked. Vargas was well placed to crash in the rebounding ball. Georgies had been under pressure from a corner and had failed to clear their lines as first Lubo Lapsansky and then Kelic let loose goal-bound shots.

A flurry of yellow cards in the first half had the desired effect: the game settled when it could easily have bubbled over at times, and only one card needed to be produced in the second period.

"The players showed a lot of discipline. They were strong, (there was) a lot of effort and passion in the tackles, but you expect that in

derby games," said Dobson.

"But once they did get the yellow card, they didn't get the second, (so) we finished the game with eleven each."

The second-half was less eventful than the first. Tsaltas and substitute Michael Batinovic both had chances to extend the lead without success. Batinovic had come on for an effective Kelic - a new signing from the lower leagues who has taken the step-up in his stride.

"Ante (Kelic) is going to take a little bit of time to settle into things," said Dobson. "He's the new kid on the block. But I'm pleased with what he's got to offer."

"Sunshine put us under a lot of pressure (in the second half)," said Dobson. "The goal just before half-time gave us a little freedom to sort a few things out at half-time and make sure we didn't give it away. I thought we dominated the second half," he said.

"Green Gully (is) very good at closing games up," said Taylor.

"They got numbers behind the ball and hit us on the

break. We got in around the back of them a couple of times, but crosses let us down."

Green Gully Cavaliers 2
Tsaltas (5), Roddy Vargas (43)

Sunshine Georgies 1
Gilmour (12)

Venue - Green Gully Reserve.
Attendance - about 1,500.
Referee - Domenic Barba.

Green Gully Cavaliers: (4-4-2) Schwalger, Vassallo, Nastevski, Markovski, Fak (c), Andy Vargas (Rajher 86), Velkovski, Lapsansky, Roddy Vargas, Kelic (Batinovic 67), Tsaltas. Subs not used: Lazarevski, Loncaric (GK).

Sunshine Georgies: (4-4-2) Brian, Waterson, Spiteri (c), Pajic, Pace (Lojanica 71), Gasparis, Gilmour (Greechan 82), Antoniadis, Muscat, Neceski, Delic.

Subs not used: Galea, Soares, Salcin (GK).
Cautions: Roddy Vargas (GG) 25, Pace (SG) 30, Fak (GG) 40, Kelic (GG) 42, Nastevski (GG) 68.
Red Cards: (None)

ROUND 2 RESULTS

Green Gully Cavs	2
Sunshine Georgies	1
Preston Lions	1
Melbourne Knights	1
Bentleigh Greens	2
Bulleen Zebras	0
Heidelberg United	2
Frankston Pines	0
South Melbourne	1
St. Albans Saints	0

LADDER

Played on Monday, 07 February 2005

Essendon Royals v Altona Magic

Fawkner-Whittlesea v Oakleigh Cannons

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully Cavs	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Heidelberg United	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
South Melbourne	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Frankston Pines	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Sunshine Georgies	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Bentleigh Greens	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Preston Lions	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Altona Magic	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Essendon Royals	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Oakleigh Cannons	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Bulleen Zebras	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Fawkner-Whittlesea	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Melbourne Knights	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
St. Albans Saints	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

By Nick Dennis

Preston Lions 1
Melbourne Knights . . .1

Preston once again showed their fighting spirit by coming from behind for the second time in two weeks, this time salvaging a draw against the Melbourne Knights when all seemed lost.

With ninety minutes of normal time up and the Knights two goals ahead they looked certain to register their first win of the season. But in a remarkable injury-time turnaround, Preston grabbed a lifeline with a goal from Anthony Magnacca and then with over five minutes injury time played, Johnny Sapazovski scored a dramatic equaliser, providing the cue for scenes of wild celebration amongst the Preston fans.

South Melbourne 1
St Albans Saints 0

After two rounds, St Albans finds itself anchored at the bottom of the table with no goals and no points, after their one-nil loss at South Melbourne.

It was another frustrating performance for St Albans as the balance of play was shared equally between the two teams. Both teams had ample opportunities in front of goal, and in the end it was the performances of two of South Melbourne's old hands, Vaughan Coveny and Dean Anastasiadis, that proved the difference.

Coveny capped a fine all-round game by scoring the



Vaughan Coveny: Snatched up the three points for South Melbourne against the St Albans Saints

only goal of the game in the fifteenth minute. From a free kick on the edge of the box he took an extra touch to avoid the on-rushing wall of defenders and drove the ball home from fifteen metres. At the other end of the field, Anastasiadis was sharp in goal, denying the St Albans attack four times in the first half alone with his saves.

Heidelberg United 2
Frankston Pines 0

In an entertaining match at the Olympic Village in Heidelberg, the home team ran out comfortable winners. Former South Melbourne midfielder Bill Damianos set up the opening goal with his free kick that was met with a well-struck header from strik-

er Angelo Goutzoulis.

Damianos scored the second himself, profiting from some excellent build-up work from exciting young winger Yusuf Yusuf, whose jinking runs were a constant threat to the Frankston defence. Although Heidelberg were deserving winners, Frankston were not without their chances, but Heidelberg keeper Lou Acevski continued his good goalkeeper form, including saving a penalty. Not to be outdone, Frankston's Marko Sutalo also saved a penalty.

Bentleigh Greens 2
Bulleen Zebras 1

Bentleigh, most pundits' favourites for the drop, provided the shock of the

round, and perhaps of the season, when they defeated last season's Premiers.

Bentleigh coach Mike Kupinic performed a minor miracle last season in rescu-

ing the club from the jaws of relegation and would have to be eased with the spirit his showed to recover from the 4-0 defeat in the opening round.

There will be no VPL matches this coming weekend, as Tianjin FEDA FC, a team from the Chinese Super League team, will play the Victorian State squad on Sunday.

The game will be the first leg of the inaugural Mayors Cup and has been established to mark the 25th anniversary of Melbourne's sister-city relationship with Tianjin.

Tianjin FEDA should be formidable opponents as their squad, which finished sixth in last season's Super League, contains four Chinese international players including first choice keeper Liu Yunfei, and another three from the Chinese Olympic squad. Sunday's game will be played at Bob Jane Stadium at 6pm.

Round 3 Fixtures

Friday 18 February
Oakleigh Cannons vs Bentleigh Greens

Saturday 19 February
Melbourne Knights vs Essendon Royals
Frankston Pines vs South Melbourne
Altona Magic vs Fawkner/Whittlesea

Sunday 20 February
St Albans Saints vs Green Gully Cavs
Sunshine Georgies vs Preston Lions

Monday 21 February
Bulleen Zebras vs Heidelberg United



SOCCER NSW LIFTOUT

OLYMPIC SURVIVES CHAOS

By Paul Goodwin

Sydney Olympic somehow kept alive its unbeaten record under new coach Mike Urukalo, but only after the most chaotic and electric 90 minutes of the season that produced two red cards, four goals, pulsating football and plenty of tension on the terraces at Jenson Park, Bankstown.

The pre-game rivalry was enough to raise the temperature towards boiling point, but the lid was blown after just three minutes when Olympic's star striker Esala Masi was sent off for a behind-the-play incident that left Bankstown's Marc Hoenselaars sprawling on the turf.

Referee Srebre Delovski consulted his assistant before brandishing the red card.

Yet five minutes later the 10-man Olympic stunned Bankstown with the opening goal. It was a day to expect the unexpected.

Bankstown certainly weren't ready for Olympic's raid in the 8th minute. After a quick throw on the left Greg Owens got down the line and crossed to the near post where the very impressive Marino Musumeci ghosted in with a glancing header to angle the ball across into the far corner of the net. The big home crowd was

stunned. The story unfolded with Olympic keeper Brett Hughes keeping his side in the game after that, with a string of first class saves, from Sean Babic, Nahuel Arrarte and Matthew Borg. Olympic went to half time leading 1-nil.

Again, a twist sent the game spiralling into a new orbit. Olympic's Matthew Gordon was handed two cautions inside a minute just after half time and joined Masi on the sidelines. Olympic down to 9 players and it looked the perfect opportunity for Bankstown to go on and win the game.

In the 69th minute the home side finally managed an equaliser.

Shane Webb and Alex Trpkoski exchanged passes and then, with the advantage of numbers in the box, Trpkoski was able to easily pick his spot from ten yards.

Having labored so long and hard for the first goal, Bankstown's second came with some ease. Five minutes later it was 2-1 and things were looking very rosy for Peter Tsekenis and his men.

Chad Gibson played a ball to Borg, who laid it back for him, to chip a surprised Hughes, who appeared to expect the shot to clear the bar.

The ball dropped late and gave the lead to the Lions, instead, and after that it

	Bankstown City Lions	2
	Sydney Olympic FC	2

should have been plain sailing for the boys in the red and black stripes.

But Olympic, with skipper Wayne O'Sullivan playing his last game for his club, were not finished.

Collina pushed forward from defence and with substitutes, Tarek Elrich and Zenon Caravella, working hard down the flanks Bankstown somehow let Olympic back in the game.

Five minutes from time and with the Lions seemingly looking for a third goal and expecting it to come easily again, they let their guard drop.

Elrich got away down the right and was bundled over on the edge of the box by Trpkoski.

The free kick was lifted to the near post, where Damon Collina stabbed at it.

Gibson, on the line, cleared the ball, only weakly and Collina picked up the loose ball and, from a difficult angle, fired it into the roof of the net.

Bankstown had blown it in a big way and they knew it. They squandered their advantage with some naive work at the back, in the latter stages of a tense game played out in front of a packed and vocal crowd.

They still had enough time to find a winner, a second time, but Hughes was not to be beaten again.

WHO'S HOT: Marino Musumeci was a constant thorn in the side of the Lions, netting a very nice goal early in the game and keeping the defenders guessing all match.

WHO'S NOT: A tough one again but Sean Babic seemed a little below his best and could not really provide the spark that was needed by Bankstown to kill the game off.

X-FACTOR: Two players making their final appearances for their team, Gibson and O'Sullivan, both determined to go out on a high note. In the end neither did, though Gibson thought he had the winner with a cheeky lob over Hughes only for O'Sullivan to lead his side to a courageous draw and walk away by far the happier of the two.

He made one good, late save and was rescued by a clearance off the line, too, as the visitors somehow escaped with a point.

Gibson, also playing his last game in the NSW Premier League for his club, had hoped his winner would be his best memory of the game, but it was O'Sullivan who would have taken most from his final outing, leading by example and inspiring his side to a dramatic late surge that earned

them a precious point.

Olympic coach Mike Urukalo disappeared right after the game was over, but the Bankstown players and their coach were a dejected bunch as they remained in the dressing room long after the final whistle had blown, knowing full well that their chance to win had been in their own hands and a point had been lost that way too.



Temper flared during the match between Bankstown and Sydney Olympic when Esala Masi was sent from the field



Sydney Olympic's Wayne O'Sullivan (left) clashes with Bankstown City Lions skipper Peter Tsekenis (right)

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS: Player-coach: Peter Tsekenis Formation: 4-4-2 Line-up: Zlatko Josevski (C) & Steve Liavas (Dmitri Nicolaou 46), Chad Gibson, Mathew Presello, Marc Hoenselaars - Nahuel Arrarte (Daniel Severino 62), George Nohra (Alex Trpkoski 60), Peter Tsekenis, Shane Webb - Sean Babic, Matt Borg. Subs not used: RGK Ivan Kovacevic, Omar Saadi		Beauchamp, Damon Collina, Peter McPherson (Zenon Caravella 79), - Shane Lyons, Wayne O'Sullivan (C), Paul Kohler, Matt Gordon, Greg Owens (Carlo Musumeci 49) - Esala Masi, Marino Musumeci (Tarek Elrich 72) Subs not used: RGK Sam Emmanouil	
SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Coach: Mike Urukalo Formation: 3-5-2 Line-up: Brett Hughes - Michael		Referee: Srebre Delovski Assistant Referees: Daniel Dewhurst and Don Filipovic Fourth Official: Bryan Seymour Yellow Cards: Bankstown City Lions: Steve Liavas 26, Nahuel Arrarte 53 Sydney Olympic: Matthew Gordon 43, 50 Red Cards: Sydney Olympic: Esala Masi 3, Matthew Gordon 50	



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...INSIDE...

- NSW Premier League News 9
 - Premier League Results, Tables & Stats 10
 - NSW All Stars vs Libya Match Preview & Statistics 11-12
 - Colour Page special on the NSW All Stars vs Libya 13-14
 - NSW Premier League Reports and Continental Cup 15
 - Futsal State League News and Results 16
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NSW PREMIER LEAGUE

AT A GLANCE

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES ...2 PENRITH NEPEAN UNITED 1

A controversial penalty midway through the first half helped Bonnyrigg to a 2-1 win over a stubborn Penrith on Saturday night. Referee Matthew Breeze awarded the spot kick after Roger Galayini had handled the ball, allowing Bobby Despotovski the opportunity to net an equaliser after they were down 1-0 to a Nathan Fleetwood strike. Penrith weren't the same team after the incident with coach Tony Rasmussen describing it as "disgraceful."

BLUE DEVILS 0 MANLY UNITED FC 0

"A bottom of the table slugfest," was how Manly coach Phil Moss described the 0-0 draw with the Blue Devils in Canberra. Despite having the better of the goalscoring chances Manly can thank goalkeeper Tom Willis for the point after he pulled off a reflex save to deny a Daniel Macor penalty on the hour mark. The result stretches Manly, unbeaten run to four games and takes them outside the bottom three.

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS ...2 PARRAMATTA EAGLES 1

Blacktown City striker Adam Kwasnik proved to be both hero and villain in his sides 2-1 win over Parramatta Eagles.

The leagues leading scorer scored twice in the first half but was sent from the field in the second after clashing with a defender in fiery incident.

Despite withstanding a late rally the Demons took all three points and condemned the Eagles to a spot in the bottom three.

ST GEORGE SAINTS 3 CENTRAL COAST UNITED 0

St. George snapped a two-game losing streak to beat the enigmatic Coasties 3-0 at St. George Stadium. With Tanju Balabanel a late withdrawal, Saints coach Manny Spanoudakis handed a starting debut to John Buonavoglia and shifted Allan Wawi to striker.

The move paying dividends with both players scoring goals and playing a big part in a win which revives the Saints season.



St George mldfield maestro Gabriel Mendez (left) shown tussling with Central Coast work-horse Scotty Thomas

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 0 SYDNEY UNITED 1

Wollongong, miserable season continued after they were knocked over 1-0 by the league leaders Sydney United. A lone 56th minute strike from Peter Markovic was enough to separate the sides despite the Wolves looking the better of the two teams. The loss keeping the former National league champions in twelfth position, still two wins from a coveted top eight spot.

A.P.I.A.-LEICHHARDT TIGERS ...0 ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 2

Rockdale City Suns have rediscovered the form that took them into the top eight over Christmas, defeating a disappointing A.P.I.A. Leichhardt 2-0.

A freekick from Denis Alilovic and a solo effort from Peter Apolevski were the highlights for the Suns who had Paul Bilokapic play a starring role in the central midfield. The Suns have now crept into eighth spot and are giving plenty of cheek.

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 2 SYDNEY OLYMPIC FC 2

The Bankstown City/Sydney Olympic derby produced its share of dramas with two sends off and a raucous bumper crowd at Jensen Park. Despite playing with nine men for all but five minutes of the second half, Olympic rallied under new coach Michael Urukalo scoring a stunning equaliser via Damon Collina and were able to hold out the home side during a torrid last five minutes.

SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR 2 MARCONI STALLIONS 2

Veteran Sydney Crescent Star striker Steve Karavatakis proved there is life in the old legs yet helping his embattled club pick up a valuable point in their clash with Marconi. Up 2-0 with less than ten minutes to go the Stallions didn't bank on Karavatakis and Tolgay Ozbey staging a classic comeback and they did to score twice in the last seven minutes to steal a valuable point.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY MATCH

LIBYA vs Sydney United

Sunday 13th February - 6PM Kick Off

Sydney United Sports Centre (233 Edensor Road, Edensor Park)

Adults \$12 - Concession/Students \$6 - Children U16 Free

ROUND 9 RESULTS

FIRST GRADE: Blue Devils 0 Manly United FC 0, Blacktown City Demons 2 (A Kwasnik 1/36') Parramatta Eagles 1 (M Dowling 82'), Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 (B Despotovski 28' Penalty, J Sobczyk 67') Penrith Nepean United 1 (N Fleetwood 1'), St George Saints 3 (A Wawi 41', J Buonavoglia 65', B Renaud 90') Central Coast United 0, Bankstown City Lions 2 (A Trposki 70', C Gibson 79') Sydney Olympic 2 (M Musumeci 8', D Collina 85'), Sydney Crescent Star 2 Marconi Stallions 2, Wollongong Wolves 0 Sydney United 1 (P Markovic), A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers 0 Rockdale City Suns 2 (D Alilovic 39', P Apolevski 69').

GRADE 20: Blue Devils 2 (A Galliozzi 11', M Geria 47') Manly United FC 2 (A Short 44', J Korocz 60'), Blacktown City Demons 2 (B Vidaic 11/43' Penalty) Parramatta Eagles 1 (D Bonne 31'), Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 (C Orricchio 52', C Camilleri 72', A Canak 85') Penrith Nepean United 0, St George Saints 1 (R Bonifacio 50') Central Coast United 1 (M Mitchell 40'), Bankstown City Lions 0 Sydney Olympic 1 (M Ferreira 55'), Sydney Crescent Star 1 Marconi Stallions 4, Wollongong Wolves 1 (P Gaffney 10') Sydney United 1 (S Tresoglavic 2'), A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers 2 (B Jenke 22/44') Rockdale City Suns 1 (A Petkovic 55m).

TOP GOALSCORERS

As at Sunday 6th February 2005

- 11 Adam Kwasnik (BCD)
- 6 Nick Bosevski (RCS), Robbie Cattanaach (BD)
- 5 Labinot Haliti (SU), Ilija Prenzoski (CCU), Brent Fisher (MU), Esala Masi (SO), Bobby Despotovski (BWE)
- 4 Tanju Balabanel (SG), Daniel Watkins (SG), Pablo Cardozo (SU), Luke Tomich (PNU), Shane McGirr (WW), Esala Masi (SO)



FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Sydney United	9	6	2	1	23	11	12	20
Blacktown City Demons	9	6	0	3	20	18	2	18
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	9	5	1	3	19	12	7	16
Bankstown City Lions	9	4	4	1	10	11	-1	16
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	9	4	3	2	6	5	1	15
St George Saints	9	4	2	3	17	12	5	14
Sydney Olympic	9	4	2	3	16	12	4	14
Rockdale City Suns	9	4	2	3	16	14	2	14
Marconi Stallions	9	2	6	1	16	13	3	12
Central Coast United	9	3	1	5	14	13	1	10
Penrith Nepean United	9	2	3	4	15	17	-2	9
Wollongong Wolves	9	2	3	4	9	14	-5	9
Manly United FC	9	2	3	4	8	15	-7	9
Parramatta Eagles	9	2	2	5	11	19	-8	8
Blue Devils	9	1	4	4	12	15	-3	7
Sydney Crescent Star	9	1	2	6	12	23	-11	5



GRADE 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Sydney Olympic	9	9	0	0	31	9	22	27
Marconi Stallions	10	8	0	2	22	15	7	24
Australian Institute of Sport	9	6	0	3	22	9	13	18
Blacktown City Demons	9	5	2	2	23	18	5	17
Central Coast United	10	5	2	3	17	13	4	17
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	9	5	1	3	23	13	10	16
Parramatta Eagles	10	5	0	5	18	12	6	15
Penrith Nepean United	10	4	2	4	18	18	0	14
Manly United FC	10	4	2	4	12	16	-4	14
Sydney United	8	4	1	3	16	10	6	13
St George Saints	8	2	5	1	16	13	3	11
Wollongong Wolves	9	3	1	5	11	17	-6	10
Blue Devils	10	2	4	4	17	31	-14	10
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	7	2	1	4	10	18	-8	7
Bankstown City Lions	10	1	2	7	10	22	-12	5
Sydney Crescent Star	9	0	2	7	10	29	-19	2
Rockdale City Suns	9	0	1	8	9	22	-13	1

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND TEN FIXTURES

FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY

Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
Manly United FC	Bankstown City Lions	Cromer Park	8.15pm
Sydney United	Sydney Crescent Star	Sydney United Sports Centre	8.15pm

SATURDAY 12 FEBRUARY

Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
Marconi Stallions	Blue Devils	Marconi Stadium	7.00pm
Penrith Nepean United	St George Saints	Cook Park (St Marys)	7.00pm
Central Coast United	A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	Pluin Park (Gosford)	7.00pm
Rockdale City Suns	Wollongong Wolves	St George Stadium	7.00pm

SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY

Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
Sydney Olympic	Blacktown City Demons	Oki Jubilee Stadium	6.00pm
Parramatta Eagles	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	Melita Stadium	6.00pm

NSW ALL STARS VS LIBYA - OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME

GOALS GALORE

New South Wales All-Stars coach Branko Culina has predicted a goal-fest ahead of the state team's one-off showdown with Libya tomorrow night at the Sydney United Sports Centre.

The cream of the New South Wales Premier League will lock horns with the national team of Libya led by striker Al-Saadi Gadhafi, the third son of the Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gadhafi in a winner take all exhibition match.

"It would not surprise me one bit to see this game end 3-all," said Culina.

NSW ALL STARS COACH PREDICTS BONANZA

"I am genuinely excited by the quality of the New South Wales team and we intend to turn it on this Wednesday night."

Without the trials and tribulations of a normal league match, Culina is free to express his penchant for good football and will unleash one of the most attacking sides seen in football for many years. South American duo Gabriel Chi Chi,

Mendez and Nick Carle will be united in the All-Stars engine room in a bid to land a sucker punch on the visiting African nation.

Excitement machine Labinot Haliti who has burnt up the competition for league leaders Sydney United this season, is also expected to get his first taste of representative football adding speed and attacking flair out wide.

"He is one of the best young talents in the league and has the potential to be a very good player if he continues to listen and learn. Sydney United have used him in a number of different positions but I feel his best position is out wide where he can use his speed to maximum effect," he said.

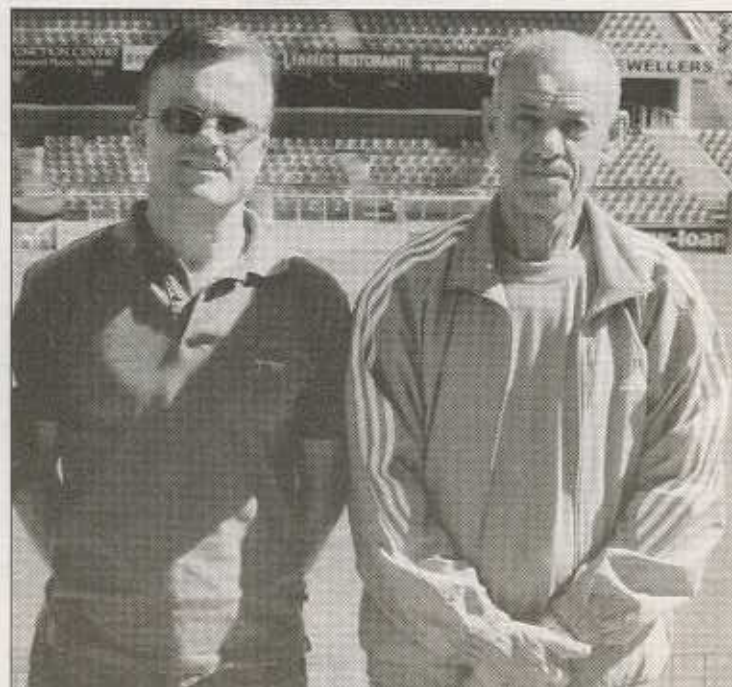
Culina spent a busy Sunday afternoon casting his eye over the Libyan training session and was impressed with what he saw.

'Libya are a very fluid side'

"They look to be a very fluid and cohesive side who use the ball intelligently," said Culina. They are currently second in their group for the World Cup and are in front of a team like Cameroon, so these guys know how to play football and score goals."

The game will also mark the last opportunity for a handful of players to stake their claim for lucrative A-League contracts. Mendez, veteran skipper Matthew Bingley and defender Paul Kohler are three big names without clubs in the revamped National League and will need a big showing if they are to impress the scouts as to their bona fides.

The only setback for the All Stars was the late withdrawal of in-form goalkeeper Clint Bolton, who was called into the Socceroo team to face South Africa.



NSW All Stars Coach Branko Culina and Libyan World Cup Coach Mohamed Esseleni shared a friendly moment in the build-up



The Libyan squad is preparing for a major World Cup qualifier against Egypt in Cairo on 27 March



Saadi Gadhafi formally welcomed to Australia by Soccer NSW President Tom Doumanis at Sydney Airport

Libya emerges for new era of sports and trade

Saadi Gadhafi is the third son of Libya's leader Col. Muammar Gadhafi. This is his first visit to Australia. It comes at a time when Australian Libyan relations are being renewed by both countries.

Trade Minister Mark Vaile led a delegation to Libya in 2002 and Foreign Minister Downer visited in May 2004, a year when Australia also had a healthy presence at Libya's major international trade show.

The Federal Government has started the process of opening a trade office and Consulate-General in Tripoli (Libya has an Embassy once again in Canberra) and is expected to upgrade to a full Embassy at the end of this year or early 2006.

Thirty-one year old Saadi Gadhafi is an engineer by training but puts considerable energy into his sporting interests as a

soccer player and sports administrator. Like some of his Australian counterparts (background example swimmer Ian Thorpe) he has a strong interest in the arts, especially cinema.

He is President of the Libyan National Football Federation and Vice Chairman of the Libyan Olympic Committee.

"Sport is big part of both Libya's and Australia's daily lives and it is a very solid way to help introduce our people. We have had great support from Australia's football authorities to play in Australia," said Saadi Gadhafi.

"I believe cinema in particular has the capacity to entertain, move and inform people. It is an art form which makes sound but not risk free investments. Australia's industry and its actors have made real impact."

"Libya and Australia have had strong relations but mostly in the agricultural sector, but is time now with Libya's economic reforms starting that we see if we can do more. Libya has Europe and the US pressing for trade so from my position, why not come and look at investing in Australian movies?"

Goodwill is a key factor in the visit. All gate receipts from the games will be donated by Sydney United to tsunami relief in south east Asia and the Indian Ocean.

It is thought he will add a personal contribution to UNICEF Australia's disaster relief efforts.

He knows of the success of Australia's film and television industry and has a considerable fund fuelled from Libya's oil exports for business investment outside Libya. According to Variety, the

Hollywood industry journal, his cinema fund may touch \$100 million.

During the first days in Sydney of his two week visit, the Libyan People's Bureau (Embassy) is introducing Saadi Gadhafi to business and in particular cinema sector talent as a way of opening contact between Libya and Australia in screen investments.

Libya takes its sports seriously and the 60 strong delegation of players and officials will strike a chord with those they meet on and off the field. Saadi's ambition is to host a World Cup in Tripoli, a big task and of the kind the Olympics showed Australia excels at. Preparation for Libya's African Cup match against the powerhouse Egyptian team in March is a part of the visit.

Australian Ministers recognise Saadi's

position in Libya. His discussions with Mark Vaile, Alexander Downer, Rod Kemp the Federal Sports Minister, the Chair of the Parliament's Trade Committee ex NSW Minister Bruce Baird and the Governor of NSW shows he is also on a diplomatic mission. A goal of the trip is to assist Libya achieve increased profile in Australia and extend relations as it is doing actively with others more easily after it dropped its weapons development program in 2003 to focus on economic development leveraging its huge oil and gas reserves.

"The frightful tsunami disaster in December shocked us all. Libya of course faces waves of sand, but I want to show that we in Libya can add support to Australia's efforts to help its neighbours recover from their tragedy," said Gadhafi.

GREATS UNITED IN SKY BLUE

Joe Marston, Greg Woodhouse and Gabriel Mendez don't share a lot in common. Born generations apart they carved out their footballing careers in three completely different eras of Australian sport. Despite their apparent differences they are united in one thing the sky blue shirt of New South Wales.

Just on fifty years ago Marston was the captain and centre-half for the New South Wales side when they took on the touring South African's. In a side which included then Socceroos Bob Bignell, Bill Henderson and Kevin O'Neill they went close to pulling off an unlikely victory, becoming the last state team to meet a visiting national side from the footballing obsessed continent of Africa.

While the 2-0 defeat at the old Sydney Showgrounds is now one for the history books, the occasion and the experience in donning the sky blue shirt is not easily forgotten as Marston explains.

There is no greater honour than being selected in a representative side. Whether or not it was New South Wales or Australia you were being acknowledged as one of the best players around and that is something you don't forget.

While Marston hung up his boots almost forty years ago the state team has had a chequered history from the flamboyant 60s and 70s to the conservative 80s and 90s when its status was lessened by the export of players overseas. During the heady days of the 1970s it served as a vehicle to push claims for National team selection and saw a young goalkeeper named Greg Woodhouse rise to the surface.

It was the next step in your football career between your club and the national team and the national coach at the time would always be at these games, he said. I played against a number of visiting teams like Norwich City, Dinamo Zagreb and Red Star Belgrade and if you played well you came into calculations. It was the only



Marconi's Nick Carle leads exciting All Stars midfield packed with talent

way you got picked to play for the Socceroos, you played well and you got your chance

While Frank Farina won't be in the grandstand due to the Socceroos commitments in South Africa, current day New South Wales midfielder Gabriel Mendez will be hoping that tonight's crowd will contain a couple of A-League scouts.

A veteran of the state scene for over a decade Mendez made his New South Wales debut back in 1995 against Queensland and is looking forward to the challenge of meeting the visiting Libyans and hopefully earning himself a coveted Hyundai A-League contract.

"Selection in any representative team is a huge honour and I'm absolutely delighted to have been picked," he said. "It's been quite a while since I last played for the state but it's something as a player you never forget. I am really hoping we can gel as a team and put on a big performance."

Saadi and Spider are 'mates'

Saadi Gadhafi's friendship at Perugia with Socceroo goalkeeper Zeljko 'Spider' Kalac is behind the tour of Australia.

This week Gadhafi spoke of his instant camaraderie with the big Australian "When I first arrived in Perugia I asked Kalac what I had to do to survive in Italian professional football", said Gadhafi.

"He told me straight 'Go home now!'"

That was the start of a relationship that may produce regular tours and exchanges between Australian and Libyan football.

As well as being a professional soccer player with Italian Serie B club Perugia, Gadhafi is a former Captain of the national team, the current Chairman of the Libyan Football Federation and Vice-Chairman of the Libyan Olympic Committee.

"Nothing unites people like sport. Sports bring people together from all walks of life. But this is more than a sports tour, it's a tour of friendship and building relationships," said Mr. Gadhafi.

The President of Soccer NSW, Mr Tom Doumanis, said the visit by the Libyan national team was the perfect opportunity for the two nations to build a new relationship.

"Football is the game the world plays and there's no better way for different peoples to come together than by a shared sporting passion," said Mr Doumanis.

'Football is our share passion'

"We look forward to robust competition on the pitch, but enduring friendship with the Libyans once the final whistle blows."

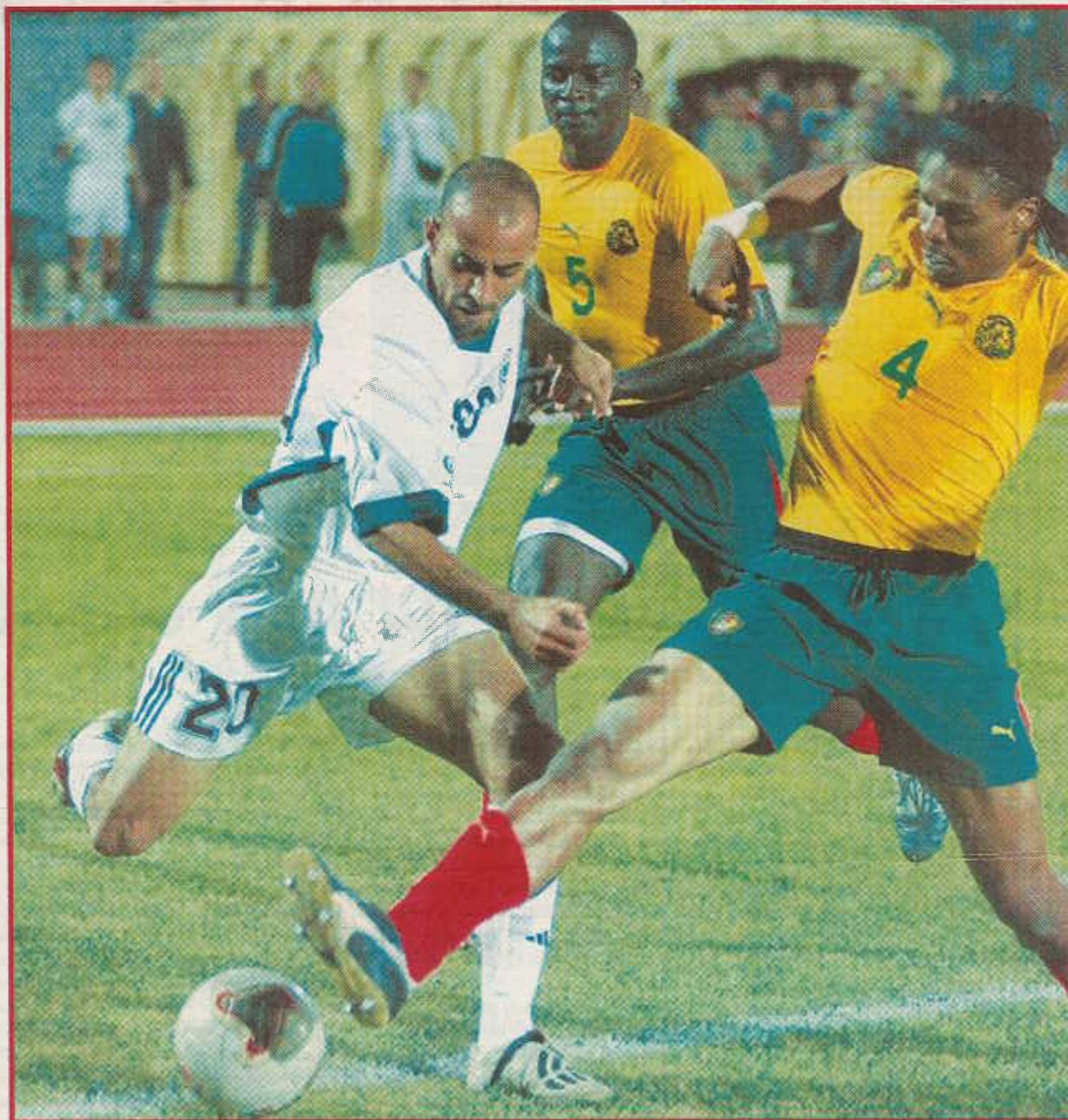
The coach of the NSW All Star team, Branko Culina, said the match against Libyan national team would showcase some top-class football.

"Libya is preparing for a big FIFA World Cup qualifier, so I'm sure they will be very serious about the tour," said Culina.

"For the NSW All Star players it's a rare taste of international football and a chance to test themselves at a higher level than they are used to. I think the fans will see a great spectacle."

Libya plays Egypt in Cairo on 27 March in their next FIFA World Cup qualifier. Libya is currently placed second in the African Zone Group 3.

The NSW All Stars feature 12 Hyundai A-League signings and leading players from the NSW Premier League in a 20-man squad for the international friendship match.



Cameroon's strong man Rigobert Song is among the African stars standing between Libya and the dream of qualifying for the nation's first ever World Cup in Germany 2006

LIBYA - OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME



Libyan World Cup team is on the verge on making history for the North African Nation

LIBYA CHASING WORLD CUP DREAM

The two-match tour of Australia comes at a crucial time for Libyan football.

The North African national has never qualified for the FIFA World Cup and the mission to make it to Germany in 2006 is delicately poised.

Mid-way through the 10-game African Zone Group Three preliminaries, Libya is placed 2nd on 10 pts, just two behind leaders Ivory Coast.

Only the top team earns direct passage to Germany 2006.

Two of the giants of African football in Cameroon and Egypt are trailing behind Libya, a measure of how far the Libyan team has progressed in this campaign.

Libya has won three World Cup qualifiers in a row, the last famous 2-1 victory over North African rivals Egypt in Tripoli last October.

A rasping goal by Ahmed Osman with five minutes to go sent the capacity 40,000 crowd in Tripoli into delirious joy.

Nader Kara had set the tone by opening the scoring against Egypt, coached by Italian legend Marco Tardelli.

The return match with Egypt in Cairo on March 27 will be a blockbuster.

Libya has brought its full World Cup squad, minus two European-based players — Jihad Montaser of Perugia in Italy and Tahib El Tarik of Rizespor in Turkey.

Both strikers Osman and Kara are expected to give the NSW All Stars plenty of headaches.

In defence, Osama Hamadi is the lynch-pin, with playmaker Suleman Abousedeg a key part of Libya's attacking game.

Alongside Suleman is the ever-dependable Abdulsalam Bouabaker.

Libyan footballers prefer a skilful, technical style of play. The Libyans will start with a 4-4-2 formation, but watch for the old movement and short passing.

Veteran coach Mohamed Esseleni has certainly seen it all before. The 70-year-old is in his 16th stint in charge of the national team. That's right, his 16th stint going back to 1968.

At domestic level, Esseleni won four Libyan championships

with Ittihad. Yet his victory over Egypt in October could rate as his most important — if Libya can continue the run in Cairo next month.

FIFA World Cup preliminaries: African Zone Group Three

Group 3	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Cote d'Ivoire	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
Libya	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Cameroon	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Egypt	5	2	1	2	11	9	7
Benin	5	0	2	3	6	11	2
Sudan	5	0	2	3	2	11	2

Libya: At A Glance

Geographic Information

- Surface area: 1,759,540
- Highest point: Bikku Bitti 2,276m
- Neighbouring countries: Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Sudan, Chad Niger
- Neighbouring seas and oceans: Mediterranean Sea

Population

Population (in millions): 5.50
 GDP per inhabitant (in US dollars): 7,600
 Density (inhabitants per km2): 3.13
 Average age (in years): 22.1
 Life expectancy at birth (in years): 76.07

LIBYAN NATIONAL TEAM BIOS

- SAMIR ABBOUD**, Position: GK, Age : 32, Club: Ittihad Tripoli, Long-established No 1 keeper for Libya and national team captain
- MUFTAH GAZAALA**, GK, 24, Ittihad Tripoli, Understudy to Samir at club and national team
- MOHAMED EL BIRAH**, GK, 24, National Tripoli, Young keeper yet to make national team debut
- WALID OSMAN**, Full Back, 26, Aruba, Right full back regular for past two years for Libya
- NAJI SHUSHAN**, Full back, 26, Ittihad Tripoli, Left full back or centre back
- MAHMOUD SHAFTER**, Full back, 30, Ittihad Tripoli, 8-year veteran of national team, now a back up player
- YOUNIS ALSHIBANI**, Centre back, 24, Olympic Zawia, Star in Olympic's 2003-04 title win
- OSAMA HAMADI**, Centre back, 28, Ittihad Tripoli, Long-term role in centre of Libya's back four, team leader and deputy for captain Samir
- ABUBAKER SUIUENEI**, Centre back, 22, Al-Alhy, Utility defender new to the squad
- SAMI EL GAAID**, Centre back, 28, National Tripoli, Back up central defender in squad
- OTHMAN AL FERJANI**, Defensive midfielder, 28, National Tripoli, Utility player, can also play in back four
- ABDULSALAM BOUBAKER**, Holding midfielder, 30, Olympic Zawia, Rated as one of the top Libyans, 5 years in national team
- NADER ALI ABOUSALAM**, Attacking midfielder, 26, Ittihad Tripoli, Skilful, goalscoring midfielder, key player for Libya
- MAREI SULIMAN**, Midfielder, 28, Ittihad Tripoli, Central midfield role
- SAADI GADHAFI**, Midfielder, 31, Perugia (Italy), Skilful goalscoring midfielder, one-time top scorer in Libyan Championship
- AKRAM ZIDAN**, Midfielder, 26, Olympic Zawia, New face in squad, just two appearances
- KHALED HUSSAIN**, Wide midfielder, 30, Nasser Bengazi, Left sided player, 8 year veteran of team
- RIDA MILAD**, Defensive midfielder, 28, Ittihad Tripoli, Back up player, 2 years in squad
- SULEMAN ABOUSADEG**, Playmaker, 30, National Tripoli, Skilful playmaker, vital to Libyan team
- AHMED OSMAN**, Striker, 26, Nasser Bengazi, Scorer of goal in World Cup win over Egypt, fast, versatile
- NADER KARA**, Striker, 26, Olympic Zawia, Top scorer for Libya, vital goal v Egypt in World Cup
- ALI RAHUMA**, Winger, 22, Ittihad Tripoli, New player, winger likes to dribble
- MOHAMED ESSELENI**, Coach, 70, Four titles with Ittihad, veteran of club and national teams. Coached national team 16 times in 37 years, German influence, prefers 4-4-2



Libyan skipper Samir Abboud



Libyan hot-shot Nader Kara has scored vital goals in World Cup campaign

NSW All Stars

PLAYED AT:
Sydney United Sports Centre,
Sydney, Australia

Libya

DATE:

9/02/05

TIME:

7.30pm

No	Name	P	S	N
1	Andrew Crews			
2	Andrew Clark			
3	Matthew Bingley (C)			
4	Andrew Durante			
5	Buddy Farah			
6	Andre Gumprecht			
7	Labinot Haliti			
8	Matt Thompson			
9	Pablo Cardozo			
10	Gabriel Mendez			
11	Anthony Doumanis			
12	Liam Reddy			
13	Dean Heffernan			
14	Ilija Prenzoski			
15	Stewart Petrie			
16	Paul Kohler			
17	Ben Blake			
18	Nigel Boogard			
19	Nick Carle			
20	Michael Beauchamp			

Coach: Branko Culina

Referee:

Assistant Referee:

Assistant Referee:

Fourth Official:

Match Commissioner:

Referee Inspector:

Key P= Player in Starting Line Up (.) S=Substitute (X), N=Not Eligible (n)

No	Name	P	S	N
1	Samir Abboud			
2	Sami El Gaaid			
3	Naji Shushan			
4	Abubaker Suiuei			
5	Marei Suliman			
6	Suleman Abdusadeg			
7	Ahmed Osman			
8	Mohamed El Birah			
9	Nader Kara			
10	Nader Abdussalam			
11	Saadi Gadhafi			
12	Abdulsalam Boubaker			
13	Walid Osman			
14	Akram Zidan			
15	Younus Alshibani			
16	Muftah Gazalla			
17	Othman Alferjani			
18	Ali Rahuma			
19	Osama Hamadi			
20	Rida Milad			
21	Khaled Hussain			
22	Mahmoud Shafter			

Coach: Mohamed Esseleni

Simon Micallef (Australia)

Peter Vrtkovski (Australia)

Jonathan Streater (Australia)

Con Diomis (Australia)

Greg McGriskin (Australia)

Dennis Micallef (Australia)



Labinot Haliti: NSW All Stars red hot midfielder



Gabriel Mendez: NSW All Stars silky midfielder

NSW ALL STARS



ANDREW CREWS, 31, A well known journeyman in the Australian football fields, Crews gained an over-due recognition of his solid talents as a keeper. Late replacement for Clint Bolton.

ANDREW CLARK, 30, now in his third season at A.P.I.A., the gifted defender and midfielder began his career at Central Coast then, after playing in Hong Kong and in between having a stint in Malaysia, Clark also played some time with Canberra Cosmos, so has a wealth of experience to call on. Signed with the Central Coast Mariners.

MATT BINGLEY, 33, captain of Central Coast and a one-time striker at St George who has many years of NSL experience behind him, principally as a defender or midfielder. Lends his vast knowledge of the game and some silky skills to the backline, possessing a calm authority in tight situations.

ANDREW DURANTE, 22, a solid defender now with Sydney United who

has enjoyed plenty of NSL experience with Sydney Olympic and Parramatta Power, Durante recovered from a serious injury with half a season in Singapore, playing for Balestier, and is now back to his best again at the heart of the United defence. Signed with the Newcastle Jets.

BUDDY FARAH, 26, talented and versatile utility player, usually seen on the left and an influential presence throughout his career, Farah is a man who has travelled widely, playing at Marconi and Wollongong in the NSL and also spending some time in Lebanon.

ANDRE GUMPRECHT, 30, recruited originally by Perth glory and a huge success as an attacking wide man in the west then went on to play at Parramatta Power before having a season in Singapore with the SAFFC club, when the NSL finished. Now operating in a more central midfield role these days and most recently seen at Sydney Olympic. Signed with the Central Coast Mariners.

LABINOT HALITI, 19, one of the finds of the season at Sydney United where he plays just in behind the strikers having graduated from the youth ranks last season is scoring goals too. Signed with the Newcastle Jets.

MATTHEW THOMPSON, 22, a quality midfielder who kept himself busy with winter engagements at super League club, Macarthur Rams, before linking with Marconi having spending some time at Parramatta Power, where he was a key member of that successful team. Signed with the Newcastle Jets.

PABLO CARDOZO, 32, a dynamic striker, now enjoying a new lease of life at Sydney United after spells at Sydney Olympic and Northern Spirit where he always demonstrated his deadly skills in the box.

GABRIEL MENDEZ, 31, another one-time Spirit and Olympic player who first came to notice at Parramatta Eagles and captains St George. Throughout an injury-troubled career 'Chi-Chi' has always been admired for his silky playmaker skills and dead-ball abilities, his incisive passing always a delight to behold.

ANTHONY DOUMANIS, 23, a very lively midfielder who loves to get forward and scores his share of goals, despite his main assets as a player of industry in the engine room at Olympic, Bankstown and latterly Sydney United.

LIAM REDDY, 23, a goalkeeper with Sydney United and formerly with Parramatta Power who has been in out-

standing form again this season. Signed with the Newcastle Jets.

DEAN HEFFERNAN, 24, a left sided defender with Marconi who came to notice at Wollongong Wolves and who is again burning up the flank with his pace and smart crossing. Signed with the Central Coast Mariners.

ILIJA PRENZOSKI, 24, the only senior member of the squad without national league experience the highly-rated and versatile striker came to notice with Canberra's Blue Devils last season, won the prestigious Gold Medal last summer and was runner-up to Matt Borg, for the Golden Boot and is now leading the Central Coast attack with some panache.

STEWART PETRIE, 35, former Dunfermline, Northern Spirit and Geylang United striker who has spent much of his Australian career on the flanks and is a superb crosser of the ball. His experience, fierce shot and sheer presence around the box will be a big asset to the side. Signed with the Central Coast Mariners.

PAUL KOHLER, 25, long time member of the Sydney Olympic set-up who has always been regarded as a solid, central defender but who has recently been seen to advantage in the midfield

as well.

BEN BLAKE, 29, rewarded recently for his loyalty to Wollongong Wolves, this naturally left-sided defender who has had spells at Perth Glory, Blacktown City and also in Singapore, with Tampines Rovers and with Gombak United, is now revelling in a central defending role for his new coach, Adrian Alston, at the Wolves.

Nigel Boogaard, an out-and-out central defender, currently with Central Coast United and one of the many promising youngsters in Grant Lee's side. Signed with the Central Coast Mariners.

NICK CARLE, 23, operates as a forward or midfielder and has the ability to combine both roles much in the mould of Gabriel Mendez and other creative midfield players. He has spent most of his career at Marconi but has travelled widely in search of experience, overseas and continues to develop as a player who can go on and play at the highest level. Signed with the Newcastle Jets.

MICHAEL BEAUCHAMP, 23, a defender who has enjoyed NSL action with both Marconi and Parramatta Power, but now part of the Sydney Olympic scene and is a defender who many feel is among the best around. Signed with the Central Coast Mariners.

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ACTION



Saints snap losing streak

The St George Saints lost striker Tanju Balabanel to a groin injury during the warm-up and had to reshuffle their ranks at the last minute, but the outcome saw the Saints snap a losing streak.

As things turned out the Saints coaching team of Manny Spanoudakis and Aytac Genc certainly pulled the right rein in pushing left-sided player, Allan Wawi, up front to accompany John Buonavoglia, on debut, as both players managed to score in the home team's solid 3-0 win.

Ivan Zelic, who was to have been rested, came back into the side to take over again from Wawi in defence and managed over an hour before giving way to Simon Verrender.

St George were already missing their top striker Daniel Watkins, who had failed to recover from a recurring ankle injury so the news of Balabanel's absence, too, could have been catastrophic.

Wawi stepped up to the mark, howev-

er, relishing his former role as a striker where he was first seen to such good effect at Wanderers Cedars in the NSW First Division a couple of seasons back.

Raphael Bove and skipper Gabriel Mendez were also playing their part by giving the front runners good service, with the former getting forward as often as he could.

Bove was denied by a good save from Coast keeper Matthew Trott, after seven minutes and then, in the 20th, Bove's cross from the right, setting up Buonavoglia nicely, was headed well over the bar by the diminutive striker, who was making his starting debut, while Wawi was making one of his rare starting appearances.

In the 41st minute of a game marred by some indiscipline at times, Wawi ran onto a nice through pass from Bove to draw the keeper well off his line.

It looked a matter of the keeper simply booting clear; but Trott elected to try and tackle Wawi, with disastrous results.

Wawi got the better of the keeper with

	St George Saints	3
	Central Coast United	0

superior footwork and was then able to take the ball forward and place it in an empty net, unchallenged.

Coast had a chance to draw level in the 56th when Joel Thiessen's long range effort flashed just wide.

Mendez then engineered the second for his side. He sent Wawi away down the left and after getting the better of Nigel Boogaard Wawi was able to square the

ball to his strike partner, Buonavoglia, for a quality finish from close range, the former A.P.I.A., Parramatta and Newcastle man showing his skills in finishing off a chance that Wawi might well have even taken himself.

Coast had another opportunity to get back in the game, in the 69th, when a punch from Andrew Crews saw the ball land at the feet of Thiessen, but when the

Coast man fired his shot at the target, Vince Savoca was there to clear off the line.

A long range shot from Brendan Renaud in the 90th minute extended the Saints' lead to a flattering 3-0.

Right at the end Crews pulled off a great save from Scott Thomas to keep his clean sheet and lift his side back among the leading teams.

ROUND 1: 26/27 February 2005

Fixtures 1	Auburn Stars
	Lithgow Workmen
Fixtures 2	Blacktown Spartans
	Belmore Hercules
Fixtures 3	Springwood SC
	Kellyville Koits
Fixtures 4	UNSW
	Hawkesbury City
Fixtures 5	Bulli
	Pagewood Botany
Fixtures 6	Doonside Hawks
	Inter Lions
Fixtures 7	Padstow United
	Port Kembla
Fixtures 8	Waverley Old Boys
	Greenisland SC
Fixtures 9	Brookvale
	Mt Pritchard
Fixtures 10	Gymea United
	Roosters FC
Fixtures 11	Mt Druitt Town Rangers
	Hakoah
Fixtures 12	Gladesville Spirit United
	West Pennant Hills-Cherrybrook
Fixtures 13	Balmain SC
	Gazy Lansvale SC
Fixtures 14	Kogarah Waratahs
	Fairfield City Lions
Fixtures 15	Eastwood St Andrews
	Prospect United
Fixtures 16	Schofields Scorpions
	Gladesville United
Fixtures 17	Hills United
	Camden Tigers
Fixtures 18	Ryde City
	White City

Continental Tyres Cup

ROUND 2: 9 March 2005

Fixtures 19	Winner Fixture 7
	Western Rage
Fixtures 20	Winner Fixture 14
	Fraser Park
Fixtures 21	Winner Fixture 2
	Dulwich Hill
Fixtures 22	Stanmore Hawks
	Northern Tigers
Fixtures 23	Winner Fixture 8
	Hurstville City Minotaurs
Fixtures 24	Winner Fixture 11
	Winner Fixture 17
Fixtures 25	Winner Fixture 15
	Winner Fixture 4
Fixtures 26	Cant-Marrickville City
	Winner Fixture 9
Fixtures 27	Sutherland Sharks
	Winner Fixture 18
Fixtures 28	Hajduk Wanderers
	Winner Fixture 12
Fixtures 29	Winner Fixture 13
	Winner Fixture 10
Fixtures 30	FC Bossy Liverpool
	Winner Fixture 16
Fixtures 31	Fairfield Bulls
	Winner Fixture 6
Fixtures 32	Winner Fixture 3
	Winner Fixture 5
Fixtures 33	Winner Fixture 1
	Macarthur Rams
Fixtures 34	Sydney University
	Hurstville ZSC

ROUND 3: 23 March 2005

Fixtures 35	Winner Fixture 20
	Winner Fixture 25
Fixtures 36	Blacktown City Demons
	Winner Fixture 27
Fixtures 37	Blue Devils
	Central Coast United
Fixtures 38	Winner Fixture 31
	Winner Fixture 33
Fixtures 39	Penrith Nepean United
	Winner Fixture 20
Fixtures 40	Wollongong Wolves
	Parramatta Eagles
Fixtures 41	Rockdale City Suns
	Winner Fixture 32
Fixtures 42	Winner Fixture 19
	St George Saints
Fixtures 43	Winner Fixture 26
	Winner Fixture 21
Fixtures 44	Bonnyrigg White Eagles
	Bankstown City Lions
Fixtures 45	Winner Fixture 29
	Winner Fixture 23
Fixtures 46	Sydney Olympic
	Marconi Stallions
Fixtures 47	Winner Fixture 22
	Winner Fixture 24
Fixtures 48	Sydney Crescent Star
	Sydney United
Fixtures 49	Winner Fixture 34
	A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers
Fixtures 50	Manly United FC
	Winner Fixture 28



Saint striker Allan Wawi shown celebrating St George's victory over the Central Coast

ST GEORGE SAINTS 3 (A Wawi 41, J Buonavoglia 65, B Renaud 90)	CENTRAL COAST UNITED: Coach: Grant Lee Formation: 3-5-2
CENTRAL COAST UNITED 0 @ St George Stadium, Rockdale.	Line-up: Matthew Trott - Nigel Boogaard, Matthew Bingley (C), Josh Mitchell - Michael Lloyd-Green, Mitchell Prentice (Josh Sama 84), Scott Thomas, Troy Halpin, Joel Thiessen - Peter Haynes (Keegan Wolfenden 68), Ilija Prenzosi
ST GEORGE: Coach: Manny Spanoudakis Formation: 4-4-2	Subs not used: RGK Scott Carter, David Brewer and Darren Cooper
Line-up: Andrew Crews - Vince Savoca, Nick Orlie, Miro Jurij, Ivan Zelic (Simon Verrender 67) - Raphael Bove, Gabriel Mendez (C), Kosta Laggoudakis, Brendan Renaud - John Buonavoglia, Allan Wawi (James Kovas 85)	Referee: Craig Pearce Assistant Referees: Andrew Best and Jian Xu
Subs not used: RGK Phil Weston and Lewis Gilas	Fourth Official: Aila Stibinger Yellow Cards: nil



NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ACTION

Slug-fest at Belconnen

By Graham Cooke

Manly United coach Phil Moss encapsulated this drab 0-0 draw with Blue Devils in a phrase — 'a bottom-of-the-table slug-fest'.

He wasn't pleased and his unhappy opposite number, Chris Tanzey, left it to assistant coach Oscar Langone to make the comments after taking a poke at the lack of support from the 500-strong crowd. "They were silent, so I'm going to stay silent as well," said Tanzey.

Maybe there wasn't a great deal to cheer — or even jeer — about. Fortunes ebbed and flowed, but neither team ever looking like taking this contest by the scruff of the neck and giving it a good shake — something it so badly needed.

Langone said he could see from the first few minutes that a goal would be enough to win the game. In the first half hour it might have gone to the Devils as Mike Katz picked out Robbie Cattanech

for the leading scorer to shoot high.

Suddenly it was Manly's turn. Devils' goalkeeper Nathan Denham parried but could not hold a stinging drive from Bradley Groves and in the confusion that followed it was left to Matt Valeri to hack the ball off the line to safety.

Within three minutes James Monie found himself facing Denham in a one-on-one duel. The young goalkeeper did everything right, spreading himself, deflecting the ball off his legs onto the cross bar and over for a useless corner.

The incident that could and should have decided the game occurred almost on the hour. John Hutchinson was pulled up for a foul in the Manly penalty area. Danny Macor's spot kick was well struck and on target, but goalkeeper Tom Willis, playing his last game for United before heading north to join Queensland's A League team, judged height and direction perfectly to make a fine save.

Tanzey made all three of his allowable substitutions in the space of four minutes

	Blue Devils	0
	Manly United FC	0

to add youth and pace to the flagging Devils. One, Paul Ivanic, made an immediate impact, his cross finding Cattanech who stabbed the ball just wide.

Moss said his side, unbeaten since Christmas, came to Canberra looking for a win. "So of course we are disappointed," he said.

"However, we also said that at the end of the night we wanted to make sure the Devils were still below us in the table, and we achieved that."

He paid tribute to Willis and the outstanding backline of Pascal Julliard, Alex Wilkinson and Adam Israel. "The four of them were brilliant; they put their bodies on the line and never lost their shape."

Langone agreed the overall spectacle was poor. "However, it is at times like these that you need the support of the crowd, and we are not getting it," he said.

"It's a shame when the boys put in so much work that there can't be some advantage from playing in front of a home crowd."

BLUE DEVILS 0
MANLY UNITED FC 0
@ Belconnen Soccer Centre, Belconnen

BLUE DEVILS: Nathan Denham, Nikolai Taper-Stanley, Lee Pietrukowski (Steve Hayes 76), Alex Castro, Elliot Zwangobani, Robbie Cattanech, Danny Macor (Paul Ivanic 78), David Arranz, Michael Katz, Dustin Wells (Ian Waldon 74), Matt Valeri.
Coach: Chris Tanzey

MANLY UNITED FC: Tom Willis, Adam

Israel, Alex Wilkinson, Pascal Julliard, Bradley Groves, Michael Williams (Tony Allovic 80), John Hutchinson, James Monie, Anthony Martin, Steve Berry (Andrew Mailer 88), Orhan Dincer (Richard Williams 62).
Coach: Phil Moss

Referee: Alex Spiroski
Assistant Referees: Craig O'Neill, Nick Radio
Fourth Official: K. Anderson
Yellow Cards: Blue Devils: Robbie Cattanech
84 Manly United: Nil

Sydney City Eagles soar highest

With the completion of round 10, the second last round of Futsal's State league, had many coaches, teams and clubs getting out their calculators for the semi-finals.

The battle between the two giants of Futsal saw second placed Sydney City Eagles host leaders Sydney Magic and it was the eagles that soared the higher.

With 17 points to make up Sydney City started off slowly losing the 12s, but regained parity winning the 14s and ending the magic's hope of making the semis, the 16s was the game of the night, in a thrilling, end to end, open and free flowing 1-1 draw, the Eagles youth flexed their muscles hitting double figures, the women's came back from 2 goals down to win 3-2 and remain unbeaten while in the top of the table clash in the men's saw the Eagles again prevail and in turn replaced the Magic at the top of the table.

Last seasons club champions Dural Warriors played host to North West Cougars and accounted for them without losing a game winning the 12s, 14s 16B, which re took top spot the 16G vs Ryde the Youth Mens which also re took first place and score drawing the Women's and Men's who with that result confirmed their spot in the top 4.

Five Dock Force hosted the Commodores from Kellyville and both clubs split the points right down the middle, with the Force winning for the first time in the 16B, and winning in the men's to keep their slight chances of making the semis alive, while the youth played out an entertaining 5 all draw, while for the Commodores they won the 12s knocking the force out of the top 4, the 14s who hit double figures and winning the Women's, while the Force overcame Quake in the 16G.

In the senior only fixtures Western Raiders and Homebush/Epping fought out a classic in the Women's with the merged outfit beating higher placed opposition to confirm their appearance in the semis, but the Men's reversed the results to equal the points tally, while the Raiders 16G remained unbeaten beating



second placed Magic.

Central Coast Comets beat Campelltown Quake in the Womens, but with results going against the Comets the result was irrelevant, while in the last fixture Ryde City took on Penrith Pumas, with the Pumas winning by double figures in the Women's keeps them in with a chance of qualifying for the semis while the Men's game was called off with 5 minutes remaining.

After the weekends fixtures there are still many chapters to be written, most importantly the Club Championship, with Sydney City polling most points vs the Magic on the weekend, the Magic's lead was reduced from 17 to 8 but with the Eagles still have a catch up game in the men's that lead could be reduced even further to a mere 5 points.

With Sydney City taking on lowly North West Cougars the opportunity to pick up a full bag of 18 points is defiantly a possibility which could see them hold a 13 point lead meaning that leaders Sydney Magic who have held the leadership since Round 1 need to win 4 games and pick up a score draw to finish on top.

This weeks fixtures are as follows:
Sydney Magic vs Ryde City at the Hurstville Sports and Aquatic Centre
Campelltown Quake vs Dural Warriors at Centennial Stadium Minto
Fivedock Force vs Western Raiders at Five Dock Leisure Centre Fivedock
North West Cougars vs Sydney City at Valentine Park all games start at 3.30pm.

Penrith Pumas vs Kellyville Commodores at States Sports Centre Homebush and
Homebush/Epping take on the Central Coast Comets also at Homebush, those two games commence at 5.30.



INTRODUCING

The

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Newcastle Jets to align with Sydney United

By Mark Stavroulakis

In what will be a first for any A-League side this season, the Newcastle Jets could enter in a feeder club agreement with former NSL club and current NSW Premier League side Sydney United for the new year.

Currently setting the NSW Premier League on fire, Sydney United have enjoyed much success since their departure from the National League.

Coach Zlatko Arambasic has been able to tab down some of Australia's finest talents that has seen the squad perform steadily having pulled off some great results.

Ante Milicic, Pablo Cardozo, Liam Reddy, Andrew Durante, Joe Vrkic, Ante Juric and Peter Zorbas are just some of the many stars that have done their bit in exiting the crowd out at Sydney United Sports Centre.

Their professionalism in terms of their ground facilities and the success of the squad have been key ingredients in why the Jets

have pushed for an interest in securing them as a feeder club.

"Sydney United have so far proved to be rather professional with their set-up and that is why we want them to be involved in our set-up", Newcastle Jets chairman Con Constantine stated to ABSW.

"We are currently in negotiations so we cannot say that the deal is done and dry but we are looking for a club in becoming our feeder side."

Ever since his trip to England last February, Constantine has since seen the light in wanting a club under his wing.

"Last February, looking at what the English have done, I'd really like to put through a similar set-up."

"The big English Premier League sides have at least two or three smaller clubs in the lower divisions working for them."

"What I mean by that is simply having their players venture off to

these clubs that are in a lower division and developing them, that is the way to go in getting the best out of the players with match fitness being a key in a successful career."

Constantine hopes that this interest could also alert other A-League clubs to do the same in following a similar pattern.

"For arguments sake, it would be great to see say Sydney FC tag down Sydney Olympic as a feeder club, as I stated before, this could be beneficial for both clubs in the future."

In the club's player news, Paul Okon is a strong candidate in becoming the new face at the Jets after club officials spoke to the former Soccerroo skipper.

Currently playing with Belgium side Oostende, the recruitment of Okon to the Jets would surely boost the club's profile in more ways than one.

"I cannot say anything definite

on Paul's situation at the moment as he still has another year left on his contract in Belgium, but we are interested in bringing him here."

"What people have to realise is that we are in the process of speaking to a few players from overseas."

Two un-named players from the U.K. have been pinpointed by Constantine and the Jets coaching board.

In terms of the coach, the Parklea Owner is still persisting that Terry Venables will be making his way down under.

"I will say it over and over and over again that Terry will be making an appearance in Newcastle but until then Assistant Coach Jean Paul de Marigny will take over the club's pre-season."

One such player that is rumoured to have interested Newcastle has been Kiwi International Vaughan Coveny.

The Melbourneian rejected a contract offer from the Victory with the Jets poised at possibly signing up Coveny.



Con Constantine: Newcastle Jets chairman could seek Sydney United as their sister club

Cole barks at snub

Head of Melbourne Victory's operations Gary Cole last week was quite bemused after a promising young player rejected an offer to play with the side in this season's A-League competition.

The Victory has not named the player but on SBS' The World Game, its believed to be Bulleen's Billy Celeski - who is the only Victorian in the Young Soccerroos that hasn't played in the National Soccer League.

"One that has surprised me is a young Victorian player with the (Australian) Under 20s - he hasn't played a single NSL game but his agent seems to think he can ask for ridiculous amounts," Cole barked.

"We do not have a bottomless pit, we have a salary cap and the challenge is to balance it."

Celeski though could choose to further his career overseas if no A-League club gains an interest in the Young Soccerroo midfielder.

Along with Celeski, Kiwi international Vaughan Coveny has also said no to a proposed move to the Victory but the clubs are soundly confident that they will recruit five new signings very shortly.



Spase Dilevski: His return to the Victory could be on the cards

Despite the setbacks, Melbourne has moved quickly to secure another five players - three of them overseas-based.

"We are in discussions with a Belgian national and we have made offers to two Australians playing overseas," Cole added.

"We are also not far away from finalising contracts with two locally-based players."

One such player that could make his way back to Australian shores is Tottenham Hotspurs Spase Dilevski.

Pin-pointed as one of this

country's hottest young talents going around, Dilevski could be on his way back to Australia on a very lucrative deal.

Former Australian youth international Joshua Kennedy is also close in signing with the club as is Kristian Sarkies and Adrian Leijer from the Young Soccerroos.

Cole has been rather happy with the club's recruitment policy and believes that the club is poised for future success with the capture of some of Australia's hottest young talents.

Salazar touches 'down under'



Alejandro Salazar

Sydney FC has presented import Alejandro Salazar - the son of United States (U.S.) marathon legend Alberto Salazar - to the media at the A-League club's home ground, Aussie Stadium.

The 20-year-old midfielder - who prefers to be called 'Alex' - arrived in Sydney last Tuesday ahead of pre-season training commitments with his new team and admitted to knowing little about the state of football in Australia but watching the likes of Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka, Brett Emerton and Lucas Neill on TV convinced him Australia was a good destination.

"I figure Australia has to be doing something right to have all those players over there in the Premier League," he explained.

Salazar cites Tim Cahill as his favourite Australian player, but says he's more of a box to box player in the mould of Roy Keane, or his personal role model, Claudio Reyna.

"We just decided that Australian football, versus maybe going into the

MLS, would be a better fit for me at the moment," he added.

Salazar's had plenty of stick back home for his choice of club, but his long term goal is to play in Europe...and for the United States in the 2010 World Cup, where he says if the American team wins, people will forgive him leaving his homeland.

"I think this is going to help my development and at the end of the day I will hopefully be playing for the U.S. national team in five years."

"I'd also definitely like to play in England in the top division."

In three US College seasons, Salazar played 61 matches and scored 25 goals and elected to try his luck in the inaugural A-League competition rather than go in to the Major League Soccer draft.

MASTEROOS SHINE DURING TSUNAMI FUNDRAISER



The Masterroos, a team made up of ex-Soccerroos showed that they can still mix it with the best when they scored a 3-0 victory against the Port Melbourne Sharks last week during their Tsunami fund raiser charity match.

The match was played in extremely difficult hot conditions, though was played in an excellent spirit with the

likes of Paul Trimboli, Alan Davidson, Eddie Krncevic, John Markovski and celebrity guest Crazy John - John Ilhan showing that they have lost little over the years.

The only incident of the game was when match referee Perry Mur clashed heads accidentally with Port Melbourne's George Svingos and required stitches to heal the wound.

President of the Port Melbourne Sharks, Phillip Diamataris said, "It was ironic that poor Perry not only donated his services along with the assistant referees, but he thought he had to donate blood as well. Though I am sure The Red Cross will be suitably happy with the substantial amount of money we were able to raise."

"There was a healthy attendance of about 500 people and I suppose that the hot weather deterred many more."

"Thirty-seven degrees normally means water sports and the beach to many, not football. In saying this we are very thankful to the Masterroos, for making themselves available and for the provision of the high level of entertainment."

"They brought back many wonderful memories for all who witnessed this very special event."

Masterroos organisers Greg Stamboulidis and Terry Paule also added, "22 ex-Soccerroos in one place at one time is a rarity. These guys are true ambassadors of the sport and still have a lot to offer our game, especially now that there are so many positive changes generated by the FFA."

We would also like to thank them for their efforts as well as the Port Melbourne Soccer Club and wish them well for their upcoming season."

OLD SOCCER TO BECOME NEW FOOTBALL IN WA

Kevin Campbell AM, Chairman of the Western Australian Soccer Association (WASA), acknowledged the support of local clubs that have affiliated with the WASA to create a unified structure to take the "world game" forward in Western Australia.

"While the majority of clubs have affiliated with

WASA for the approaching competition season, I encourage all clubs to throw their support behind WASA for the good of the game," Mr Campbell said.

"It is time to take soccer into the new era of football, and the essential foundation for this is a strong and unified sport, right here at home at the grass roots. You can't argue with that.

"New football will have a foundation in community and in unity, and our commitment to help establish a strong soccer presence in WA is undiminished.

"Soccer is in a much better position in WA thanks to the creation of WASA, the support of the local clubs, and the establishment of new links with Glory and Football Federation Australia.

"A strong association is crucial to ongoing financial and infrastructure support from the government," Mr Campbell said.

Mr Campbell's comments come ahead of launch activities and announcements by WASA, Football Federation Australia and Perth Glory scheduled for 5 February.

MATILDAS TOUR OF CHINA CONCLUDES

The Qantas Matildas came agonisingly close to winning the four nations tournament in Quanzhou, China last night thrashing Russia 5-0 in their final match.

With the same number of competition points as the host nation but a two-goal deficit on goal difference, the Australians were hoping that Germany would defeat China by three goals but they fell just short with the Germans taking the final match 2-0.

So it left Australia and China locked on the same competition points and with six goals for and three against for the tournament leaving China to be awarded the championship due to defeating Australia 3-0 when the two countries met on Sunday.

In what was the most convincing performance of any team at the tournament, the Australian team completely dominated its opponent to lead by two at the break and then add another three in the second half, with Kate Gill grabbing a double.

Coach Tom Sermanni was delighted with the team's performance.

"The girls played exceptionally well," said Sermanni.

"We expected that we could win this match but I was surprised by how much control we had."

"The tournament has been a good one for us and we will take a lot out of it."

Running with a strong wind in the first half, Australia had a lot of possession and pinned Russia back in its half for long periods.

The pressure nearly told in the 33rd minute, when the speedy Lisa De Vanna raced onto a long clearance by Cheryl Salisbury, however De Vanna's attempted lob was grabbed by the lanky Russian keeper.

That however proved to be only the prelude, as two minutes Australia opened the scoring. The impressive Gill beating her marker and laying off to De Vanna. Her flick pass was a gem to Heather Garriock, who shot across the keeper and inside the far post for a well worked goal.

Two minutes later De Vanna made it 2-0, when good work on the right saw Rhian Davies get free and whip a cross to the back post. Gill brought the ball down brilliantly with her chest and volleyed the ball back across goal, where De Vanna was hand to head home.

The Australians didn't let up in the second half and it was Gill who got her just rewards with a goal, when she met a flick-on at the back post with a volley that gave the Russian keeper no chance.

Gill then grabbed a second with a simple tap in 11 minutes later, after a terrific run into the box by De Vanna.

The all important fifth goal that Australia needed to have any chance of winning the tournament duly arrived with five minutes remaining, when Gill again turned her defender, but was brought down in the box for a penalty. Salisbury made no mistake with her spot kick.



Kate Gill: The Matildas star notched up a double in Australia's five-nil thrashing of Russia

Queensland sign Murdocca

Queensland's Hyundai A-League team early last week snapped up former South Melbourne NSL player Massimo Murdocca.

The 20 year old midfielder from Victoria, who signed a two year deal with the Lions, was a member of the Australian under 20 squad that beat Brazil in 2003.

Murdocca will play alongside Tom Willis, Matt McKay and Michael Baird, three other members of that Australian Under 20 squad who have also signed with the Queenslanders.

Queensland Head coach Miron Bleiberg is delighted with the signing which brings his squad to 11, with a further nine places yet to be filled.

"Massimo will add quality and speed to our midfield department. During the 10 days he has been trialing with us he has shown us an outstanding attitude and work ethic. Massimo will set a good example for the squad both on and off the field."



MASSIMO MURDOCCA: Snapped by the Lions last week.

Bleiberg will continue to trial more players in the pre-season Luxury Paints Silver Boot competition which concludes in late February.

COVENY REJECTS MELBOURNE VICTORY

By Brendon Davis

New Zealand striker Vaughn Coveny has rejected an offer to play for the Melbourne Victory in the A League.

In another blow to the Victorian start up, the New Zealander has decided to spend the season at South Melbourne where he will again captain the team.

At Souths season launch, when announcing Coveny as captain, President George Donikian told the large crowd Coveny had received an offer from the Melbourne Victory but he has rejected it.

This announcement was met with tremendous cheers by the South faithful who have been alienated by the National League believing South have been shabbily treated by the Lowy team.

Media reports had wrongly stated Coveny has agreed to join the Victory.

The combination of Coveny and Salapapadis has proved a major hit with the Blues faithful.

It's believed that Newcastle United have moved in as a possible club for Coveny.



Vaughn Coveny: Kiwi International has rejected a move to A-League side Melbourne Victory

McMahon excited by Perth Glory opportunity

New Perth Glory head coach Steve McMahon admits he's "really excited" about taking a major role in reinvigorating Australian football this year.

The Liverpool hero told liverpoolfc.tv this week: "I see a move to Australia as a tremendous challenge for me."

"Australia is highly regarded around the world in so many different sports, and I have no doubt that this can also be achieved in football. The potential is limitless and I'm confident I can play a role in this.

"The offer came right out of the blue to be honest and everything has happened so quickly. I was on a shortlist of four or five before being offered the job and I had no hesitation in accepting.

"It wasn't that difficult a decision to make. My children are no longer school age so there's no problem on that front.

"I'll be going over on my own at first. My wife will stay in England to sort a few things out and then join me.

"I've got an initial 12-month contract with the option of a further 12-months. I'm really excited,

it's an incredible opportunity."

McMahon, who has successfully managed Swindon Town and Blackpool, added:

"I'm not sure of how high the standard is over there but I am aware that there is a lot of good talented players.

"It's a brand new league and consists of the best eight teams from the likes of Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Newcastle, Adelaide and, of course, Perth.

"There's also a team from New Zealand so it should be really interesting. The Australian Premiership, if you like!"



Perth Glory's new coach Steve McMahon is buzzing for the commencement of the A-League season

MATCH DETAILS

AUSTRALIA 5
(Heather Garriock 35', Lisa De Vanna 37', Kate Gill 51'/62', Cheryl Salisbury 85')

RUSSIA 0

SOCZEROOS TO BATTLE IRAQ

The Premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr announced that the Qantas Socceroos would play Iraq in Sydney the first time the two countries have met at senior international level for more than 30 years.

The match will be played on Easter Saturday (26 March 2005) at Telstra Stadium kick off at 7pm.

Iraq (equal 44) - who made the semi-finals of the Olympic Football Tournament at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games - is currently ranked 14 places ahead of Australia (58) by FIFA.

"This historic match will help grow and strengthen the bond between our two countries," Mr Carr said.

"It will also be a great chance for local fans to see our best players turn out in the green and gold in their own backyard."

Australia and Iraq met at senior level twice in March 1973 as part of Australia's successful 1974 FIFA World Cup qualification campaign.

On that occasion, Australia won 3-1 in Sydney with the other match ending 0-0 in Melbourne.

The two nations also met in the quarter-finals of the Athens 2004 Olympic Football Tournament with Iraq winning 1-0.

Mr O'Neill said barring injury a full-strength team would turn out for Australia.

"This is a match of national significance," Mr O'Neill said.

"This year we embark on a campaign to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in over 30 years and this match is a key part of that preparation."

"Iraq has been through much turmoil and we are delighted that we will be helping to rebuild Iraqi football."

Tickets for the match will go on-sale the week commencing 14 February with a family of four able to attend for around \$50.

Mr Carr said the match was part of the State Governments ongoing commitment to football.

"We want to help to promote, grow and develop the world game in Australia," Mr Carr said.

"That is why last May I launched the 'Freedom and Friendship Cup' between the Socceroos and Turkey."

"Last October I also launched the Johnny Warren Soccer Academy a \$1.5 million State Government initiative that will enable our best young players to access the best possible training at home."

Easter Saturdays match would be a key part of preparations for both countries for forthcoming qualification matches for the 2006 FIFA World Cup finals.

Mr Carr said the match was great opportunity for the Australian - Iraqi community to come out and support their team.

In NSW local government areas, the highest proportion of Iraqi born residents includes Fairfield and Liverpool.

Football Federation Australia (FFA) chief executive John O'Neill says he is confident the Socceroos will field their strongest possible line-up when they face Iraq in Sydney at Easter.

The first senior match between the two sides for more than 30 years will be played at Homebush's Olympic Stadium on March 26, the FFA revealed.

The game will be Australia's last match before the Confederations Cup in Germany in June, which will be followed by World Cup qualifiers against Solomon Islands.

Mr O'Neill said he was confident that top players would be available for selection all the way through the 2005 campaign.

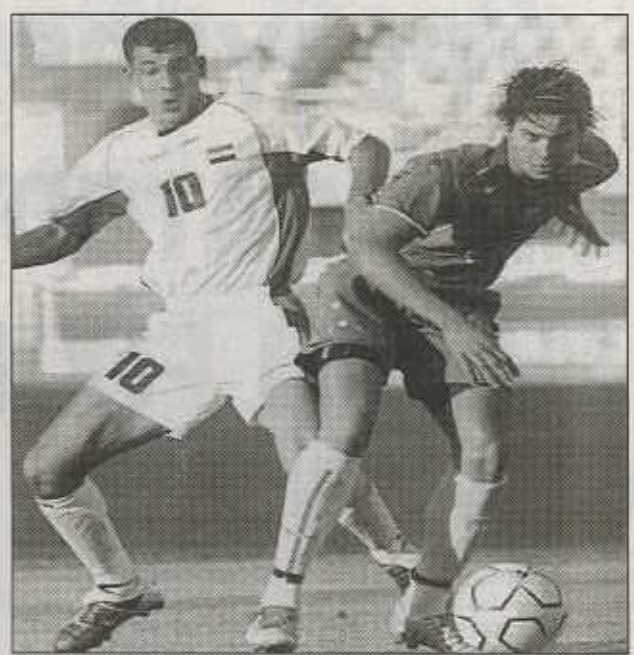
"This is the year where there is a lot of pressure on the Socceroos, but it is the year where the players themselves want to qualify for the World Cup," he said.

"I think you'll see, barring serious injury, every time they play this year it will be our best team."

Also last year Iraq visited Western Australia for a series of friendly matches.

Footballing ties between the two countries were boosted by the appointment of former Perth Glory handler Bernd Stange as the team's coach under the former regime of Saddam Hussein.

The German quit his post last year, saying continuing security problems and attacks on foreigners made it impossible for him to carry on.

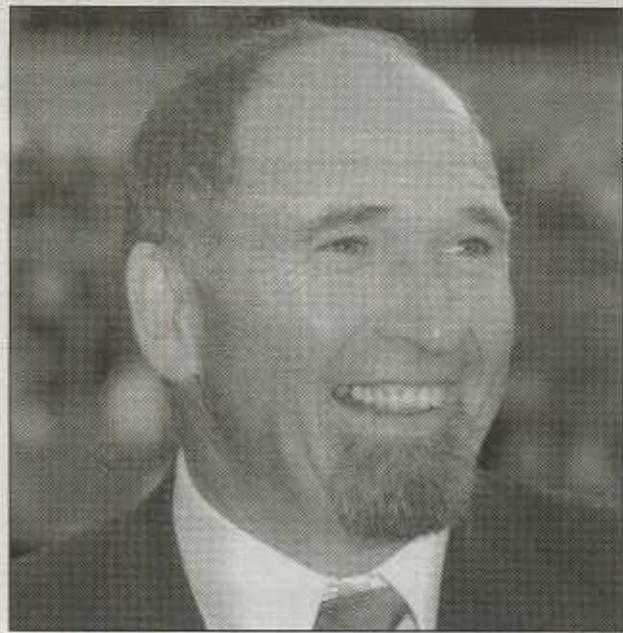


Younis Mahmoud and Anthony Danze (right) during the Olympic match between Australia and Iraq

The Iraqi soccer team was formerly under the overall control of Saddam's late son Uday, who was reported to have tortured and humiliated players.

"As Iraq emerges in the post-Saddam era sport is playing a vital role in its revitalisation," Mr O'Neill said.

PERTH GLORY DELAYS FLOAT



Perth Glory chairman Nick Tana has decided against the club floating

The Board of Perth Glory Soccer Club has decided to not proceed with the public float of the club.

"There is significant exciting change taking place to football in this country at the moment and after careful consideration we believe the timing is not right to proceed with the float", said Perth Glory Chairman Nick Tana.

"With the Hyundai A-League yet to commence we are moving into unknown territory and everybody involved is taking a leap of faith. The club feels that it is important for the Hyundai A-League to be more established with the new A-League clubs to develop their respective markets and the older clubs to further strengthen theirs.

"We are confident it will be a success and there are also new opportunities" being identified through Football Australia's recent intention to further integrate into



Asia. This is intended to deliver increased number of home games, increased sponsorship opportunities, and considerably increased television exposure."

Football Federation Australia

Head of Operations Matt Carroll supported the decision of the Perth Glory Board.

"We think it's a very suitable decision that has been made. As the Hyundai A-League gets underway and grows it will put the club in a much better position for people to decide on their investment strategy."

Mr Tana also pointed to recent developments as another factor behind the board's decision including the inclusion of Perth in Rugby's Super 14 competition from 2006. That team will play out of Members Equity Stadium which the State government has committed a further redevelopment to the cost of \$25 million. This will bring substantial benefits and new opportunities to the venue which Perth Glory's subsidiary Allia Holdings has the management rights for the next 19 years.

"It is the beginning of what promises to be a very lucrative new era in Australian football under the leadership of Mr Frank Lowy and Mr John O'Neill. Perth Glory is very confident that Australian football will significantly increase in profile and size and we will continue to work hard to ensure Perth Glory remains at the forefront of the game in this country" said Nick Tana.

"The re-launch of Perth Glory this Friday will be the start of something big for the club and its fans in a new exciting era. We are already well under way to further strengthen the club's administration and after the announcement of Steve McMahon as the new Head Coach, we will shortly finalise a highly competitive playing squad".

Archie's back.com

By John Bonacci

In a recent interview with John Bonacci, Socceroo, Archie Thompson, cited the professionalism of Melbourne Victory and the A-League, as the reason behind returning from Europe to lead Melbourne Victory's attack.

With Thompson's contract at Lierse, his home for the past four seasons, due to expire midyear, Archie had no doubts where he wanted to continue his career. "My club offered me an extension on my contract. I've heard so much about the A-League and Melbourne Victory taking off and being on the right track, I thought it might be great to be part of the club, especially now that it is so much more professional."

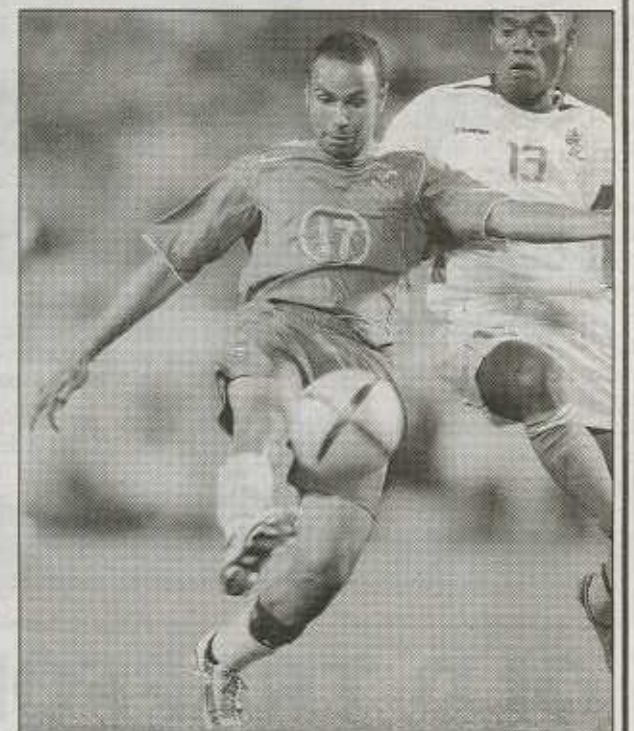
Lierse did battle, however, to score the signature of the striker, who is currently the top scorer at the club.

Thompson's agent, John Grimaud, who dealt with the contract proceedings, stated that the negotiations were finalised very quickly and in a professional manner upon the presentation of the contract and added, "There is no doubt that Archie Thompson will excite the people that watch Melbourne Victory play."

About the transfer itself, Thompson added, "I didn't deal much directly with Melbourne Victory, I let John Grimaud do the work. I spoke to Ernie Merrick a few weeks before I started seriously thinking about it, but at that stage, I was actually thinking about staying in Europe longer."

Archie is also looking forward to linking up with another new signing, Michael Ferrante, to lead Victory's charge in the A-League.

"I know Michael Ferrante, and it will be good to play in the same



Melbourne Victory's new signing Archie Thompson has had a fan website dedicated to him

team as him. He did really well at youth level in England with West Ham, and will be a good player for Melbourne Victory."

With the Socceroos set to travel to South Africa in February, and take on Iraq and an Asian Select XI in March on home soil, Australian fans are looking forward to seeing Archie don the green and gold again, the colours worn when Archie blasted his way into the record books with 13 goals against American Samoa.

Thompson is yet to hear from National Team officials regarding the three coming International matches.

"I've been playing really well here in Europe and am scoring goals, and by moving to Australia, I might be a little bit more under the microscope, and he (Frank

Farina) might be able to see me a lot more. I haven't heard anything from the National Team at this stage for the games against South Africa or Iraq, but I'd love to be part of the team for these games, especially the ones in Australia."

Archie Thompson fans have already welcomed the move back to Melbourne, and an Archie Thompson fan club and website has been constructed to inform and educate football fans about one of Australia's most underrated players.

The site can be found at www.archiesback.com and is welcomed by the striker.

"I heard about that actually. I spoke to Gary Cole and he mentioned something about a website. That's just brilliant. Thanks." Registration is free, and the site.



PLAYERS IMPLICATED IN MATCH FIXING

German authorities have seen evidence that four games were fixed and said at least 10 players are suspected in a scandal that has rocked the country 16 months before it hosts the World Cup.

The national soccer federation, which for the first time was allowed to review police investigation files, said that referee Robert Hoyzer has confessed to rigging four games after being bribed by a Croatian betting ring.

The federation added that Juergen Jansen, one of four referees accused, is suspected of manipulating the only Bundesliga game among 10 games believed to be fixed. Jansen, who has worked 147 Bundesliga games, denied fixing Kaiserslautern's 3-0 win against Freiburg on Sept. 27.

"I didn't do what I'm accused of. Let me fall over dead if that's not true," Jansen told the Passauer Neue Presse newspaper.

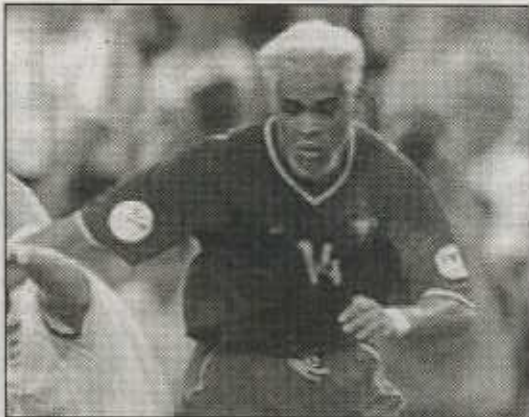
After instigating country-wide raids last week, Berlin prosecutors said four referees and 14 players were among 25 people suspected of fixing at least 10 games. World soccer's ruling body wants a quick end to the worst soccer scandal to hit the country in more than 30 years.



Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, President of the German Football Federation, has vowed to carry on until the 2006 World Cup despite calls for his head over a match-fixing scandal.

Police seized bank accounts and property worth about \$3.17 million during the raids of 19 homes. There were no arrests.

The scandal erupted two weeks ago when four referees alerted federation officials of their suspicion about Hoyzer. Hoyzer told prosecutors that Jansen and Dominik Marks each rigged two games and implicated a third referee, Felix Zwayer.



Portuguese defender Abel Xavier has found a new home with Roma.

ROMA SIGNS ABLE ABEL

Portuguese defender Abel Xavier signed a five-month contract with Italian club Roma.

The 32-year-old, who played for Portugal at Euro 2004, was without a team after being released by German club Hannover in July.

Xavier already has Serie A experience having played for Bari in the 1995-96 season.

Famous for his bleached blond hair and beard, he has also enjoyed spells across Europe with Galatasaray, Liverpool, Everton, PSV Eindhoven and Benfica.

BERKOVIC BOLTS FROM POMPEY

Israeli midfielder Eyal Berkovic has left Portsmouth by mutual consent to return home, the Premier League club said on their website.

The 32-year-old international joined Portsmouth from Manchester City 12 months ago and played 28 matches for the club.

"Eyal Berkovic has decided to finish with football in England and has asked if he can return to Israel so his contract has therefore been cancelled by mutual agreement," Portsmouth chairman Milan Mandaric said.

"We thank Eyal for his time at the club and wish both him and his family well for the future."

Berkovic also had spells with Southampton, West Ham United, Scottish club

Celtic and Blackburn Rovers.



Israeli midfielder Eyal Berkovic says he is finished with football in England.

UEFA WANTS MORE HOME-GROWN PLAYERS

UEF A announced new rules on home-grown players forcing Champions League and UEFA Cup teams with large numbers of foreign stars to make changes beginning in the 2006-07 season.

UEFA eventually will insist on eight players in a 25-man squad being home-grown - four trained within a club's academy and four within the same national association - as part of an effort to limit the influence of foreigners.

European soccer's ruling body also will press ahead with plans for the measure to be adopted in domestic competitions.

"We think this is a reasonable compromise based on all the consultations we have had," UEFA chief executive Lars-Christer Olsson said. "Although we have had negative responses from some

leagues and some bigger clubs in those leagues, all the others involved have been very supportive of this idea.

In 2006-07, clubs will need to include a minimum of four home-grown players - two from within the club and two from the same association - in a squad. That number will be increased to six the following season and eight in 2008-09.

UEFA defines a club-trained player as one who has been registered for a minimum of three seasons with the club between the age of 15 and 21.

The nationality of the players will not matter in order to avoid any Bosman-style challenge in European courts.

Of the 32 teams in last season's Champions League, five clubs would not have had enough home-grown players to meet the requirement of eight.



The high powered Chelsea squad was one of 27 teams in last season's Champions League who did not have enough home-grown players to meet UEFA's new requirement of eight.

FA appeal to FIFA over Mutu's Juventus move

The Football Association have appealed to FIFA to stop drug cheat Adrian Mutu training with his new club Juventus. The Romanian international striker is exploiting a loophole in his ban by training with the Italian giants.

Mutu's playing ban expires on May 18 and Juventus want him match fit for the last two games of the Serie A season and the chance of a shock return in the Champions League final on May 25.

OLD TRAFFORD TO GET BIGGER

Manchester United have been given planning permission to increase the capacity of their Old Trafford stadium to 76,000.

The Premier League club are to add 7,900 seats, which could earn the team another £5 million per season.

Work on the ground will begin before the end of the season with the new seats set to be installed before the 2006-07 season.

"This is great news," United director of communications Phil Townsend said. "We believe this will be of huge benefit to the club and the fans."



The capacity of Manchester's Old Trafford will increase to 76,000 with new seats to be added to the sides of the main grandstand.



English FA Cup



ASTON VILLA 1 ARSENAL 3

Champions Arsenal returned to their fluent best, ripping Villa to shreds during a one-sided first half at Villa Park.

Fredrik Ljungberg opened the scoring after 10 minutes before Thierry Henry and Ashley Cole finished in style to seal the points before the half hour mark.

Colombian Juan Pablo Angel, who missed two penalties in midweek, salvaged some home pride after the break with a goal.

CRYSTAL PALACE 0 BOLTON 1

Bolton's extended their winning run to seven consecutive games in all competitions after midfielder Kevin Nolan scored a controversial winner and Palace missed a hatful of chances. Nolan scored in a 31st minute goalmouth melee, following up a blocked Stelios Giannakopoulos shot with an effort that Palace defender Emmerson Boyce hooked back after it had crossed the line, according to the linesman.

LIVERPOOL 3 FULHAM 1

Back-to-back league wins keeps Liverpool in the hunt for a Champions League qualifying place next season.

New Spanish striker Fernando Morientes made it two goals in two games with an early header before Fulham striker Andy Cole levelled seven minutes later. Finnish defender Sami Hyypia claimed Liverpool's second after meeting Steven Gerrard's free kick in the 63rd minute with a glancing header and Czech striker Milan Baros put the result beyond doubt on 77 minutes.

MANCHESTER UTD 2 BIRMINGHAM CITY 0

United followed up their thrilling 4-2 win at Arsenal in midweek with a workmanlike 2-0 victory that included captain Roy Keane's 50th goal for United.

Both sides hit the woodwork in the opening 45 minutes, with Wayne Rooney's header being tipped on to the crossbar for United and City's Walter Pandiani hitting the bar with a powerful volley. Keane, who had not scored since November 2003, fired home in the 55th minute and Rooney lobbed home their second after a defensive blunder.

MIDDLESBROUGH 1 BLACKBURN 0

Middlesbrough are still in the battle for European football next season and were made to work for the points at the Riverside.

Stewart Downing provided the pass and French defender Franck Queudrue the finish with a smart shot on 35 minutes. Rovers piled on the second half pressure and Boro had midfielder Ray Parlour red-carded at the end. The defeat means the visitors can still get dragged into the



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo (left) gets ahead of Birmingham's Mehdi Nefli.



Frank Lampard of Chelsea has his last minute shot put wide of the post by David James of Manchester City

relegation dogfight.

NEWCASTLE UTD 1 CHARLTON 1

Frustration and boos from the St James' Park faithful as Graeme Souness's side were held to a draw and could easily have lost.

Newcastle provided all the early pressure and had to wait until the 52nd minute for Kieron Dyer to break the deadlock with a deflected shot, set up by a header from skipper Alan Shearer. The lead lasted only a minute, though, before Danish midfielder Dennis Rommedahl lashed home a fine equaliser and the visitors went on to create enough chances to win it.

NORWICH 3 WEST BROM 2

The match was dubbed a "12-pointer" by Norwich boss Nigel Worthington before kickoff and his side were twice behind before Damien Francis scored the winner in the 85th minute.

West Brom took a 41st minute lead through Robert Earnshaw after a poor clearance by keeper Robert Green, while Russell Hoult let in a soft goal at the other end four minutes later from a Craig Fleming header. Loan player Kieran Richardson restored West Brom's lead just after the re-start before Gary Doherty levelled again for Norwich with a 62nd minute free kick and Francis won it with a superb volley.

TOTTENHAM 3 PORTSMOUTH 1

Tottenham's new Egyptian striker Mido was the toast of White Hart Lane after scoring twice on his debut as the hosts came from a goal down to take all three points.

Portsmouth took the lead with a Diomansy Kamara header from Patrik Berger's corner. Mido grabbed a 34th minute equaliser and then added a second in the 57th off a pass from strike partner Jermain Defoe. Ireland striker Robbie Keane sealed the win in the 83rd minute.

CHELSEA 0 MANCHESTER CITY 0

Runaway leaders Chelsea were forced to settle for a goalless draw as Manchester City frustrated the leaders at Stamford Bridge.

It took some desperate defending from the visitors to keep Chelsea out, and in particular a stunning point-blank save by David James in the final minute to deny Frank Lampard.

William Gallas' first-half header was also cleared off the line.

SOUTHAMPTON 2 EVERTON 2

Marcus Bent grabbed a stoppage-time equaliser to frustrate relegation-fighting

Southampton again as Everton drew 2-2. They looked certain winners when Peter Crouch and Henri Camara replied to an explosive early strike by former Saints favourite James Beattie. The Toffees had gone ahead in the fourth minute when Beattie volleyed home a half-clearance by deputy goalkeeper Paul Smith but Saints had enough opportunities and possession to snatch their fourth win of the season.



Robbie Keane sealed the win for the Spurs in their win over Portsmouth

EPL FIXTURES

Saturday, February 12th, 2005

Everton v Chelsea
Birmingham v Liverpool
Blackburn v Norwich
Portsmouth v Aston Villa
Bolton v Middlesbrough

Sunday, February 13th, 2005

Manchester City v Manchester Utd

Sunday, February 13th, 2005

Arsenal v Crystal Palace

PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa 1 Arsenal 3, Crystal Palace 0 Bolton 1, Liverpool 3 Fulham 1, Manchester United 2 Birmingham City 0, Middlesbrough 1 Blackburn 0, Newcastle United 1 Charlton 1, Norwich City 3 West Bromwich 2, Tottenham 3 Portsmouth 1, Chelsea 0 Manchester City 0, Southampton 2 Everton 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	26	20	5	1	49	8	65
Man Utd	26	16	8	2	43	16	56
Arsenal	26	16	6	4	58	30	54
Everton	26	14	6	6	31	27	48
Liverpool	26	13	4	9	41	27	43
Middlesbrough	26	11	7	8	41	35	40
Bolton	26	11	6	9	35	32	39
Charlton	26	11	5	10	30	36	38
Tottenham	26	10	6	10	33	30	36
Man City	26	8	9	9	31	27	33
Aston Villa	26	8	8	10	29	33	32
Newcastle	26	7	10	9	37	43	31
Portsmouth	26	8	6	12	29	38	30
Birmingham	26	7	8	11	29	33	29
Fulham	26	8	5	13	33	44	29
Blackburn	26	5	10	11	21	36	25
Crystal Palace	26	5	7	14	29	40	22
Norwich	26	3	11	12	26	49	20
Southampton	26	3	10	13	28	43	19
West Brom	26	2	11	13	23	49	17

Football League Championship

Wolverhampton 1 Sunderland 1, Burnley 0 Leeds Utd 1, Brighton & Hove 2 Derby 3, Leicester 1 Crewe 1, Millwall 0 QPR 0, Preston NE 3 Coventry 2, Reading 0 Plymouth Argyle 0, Rotherham 0 Notts Forest 0, Sheffield Utd 0 Ipswich 2, Watford 2 Gillingham 0, Wigan 0 Stoke 1, West Ham 1 Cardiff 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich	31	18	8	5	58	37	62
Wigan	31	16	9	6	53	23	57
Sunderland	31	17	6	8	44	27	57
Reading	31	14	9	8	37	27	51
Derby	32	15	6	11	46	40	51
Preston	31	14	7	10	44	42	49
West Ham	31	14	6	11	41	39	48
Sheff Utd	31	13	9	9	39	39	48
Millwall	31	13	7	11	35	29	46
Leeds	33	11	11	11	37	35	44
QPR	31	13	5	13	39	42	44
Crewe	30	11	8	11	51	51	41
Stoke	31	11	8	12	19	22	41
Watford	31	9	13	9	38	34	40
Leicester	30	9	13	8	32	28	40
Burnley	29	10	10	9	23	24	40
Wolverhampton	31	9	12	10	43	42	39
Brighton	32	10	8	14	27	40	38
Cardiff	31	8	10	13	33	36	34
Plymouth	31	9	7	15	33	42	34
Coventry	31	8	8	15	39	52	32
Gillingham	31	8	5	18	28	51	29
Notts Forest	31	5	11	15	28	45	26
Rotherham	31	3	12	16	23	43	21

Football League One

Barnsley 0 Sheffield Wed 0, Bradford 1 Tranmere 1, Brentford 1 Milton Keynes 0, Chesterfield 0 Hartlepool 1, Colchester 0 Blackpool 1, Huddersfield 1 Luton 1, Hull 1 Bristol 1, Oldham 1 Swindon 2, Peterborough 2 Stockport 1, Port Vale 2 Bourmemouth 1, Torquay 2 Doncaster 1, Walsall 2 Wrexham 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton	30	17	9	4	53	30	60
Hull	30	18	5	7	57	38	59
Tranmere	31	16	9	6	51	38	57
Sheff Wed	31	14	10	7	54	36	52
Hartlepool	29	16	4	9	50	39	52
Brentford	30	15	5	10	36	38	50
Bristol City	31	11	12	8	52	41	45
Swindon	31	13	6	12	50	44	45
Bradford	30	12	9	9	41	40	45
Bourmemouth	29	12	8	9	49	40	44
Doncaster	31	11	11	9	39	41	44
Barnsley	31	9	14	8	46	39	41
Chesterfield	31	10	10	11	38	41	40
Huddersfield	31	10	9	12	49	48	39
Walsall	31	10	9	12	46	54	39
Oldham	29	10	6	13	43	45	36
Colchester	29	9	8	12	40	33	35
Port Vale	30	11	2	17	32	43	35
Blackpool	29	8	8	13	35	41	32
Torquay	30	7	10	13	36	50	31
Peterborough	30	6	9	15	36	43	27
Wrexham	31	9	10	12	38	56	27
Milton Keynes Dons	30	6	8	16	34	55	26
Stockport	31	4	7	20	34	66	19

ITALIAN SERIE A



By Joe Russo

Having just returned from Italy, a country where one could easily overdose on football, it makes you realise that football in Australia is such a long way behind Europe in terms of player development and media coverage.

The Viareggio Coppa Carnevale is undoubtedly the most prestigious club Under 20 tournament in the world. Juventus, Inter, AC Milan, Lazio, Roma, Parma, Fiorentina, Bayern Munich, Werder Bremen and Newcastle United were just some of the competitors in the 2005 edition.

The tournament's president, Alessandro Palagi, told us in Viareggio last week that he hopes to expand the size of the overseas contingent at the Coppa Carnevale.

Of the 40 participating teams, 23 were Italian teams and 17 were foreign. Palagi said that the tournament eventually hopes decrease the Italian presence to 15 and make up the remaining places with overseas clubs.

The standard of competition at the Under 20 level, in Italy called the primavera, is really astonishing. For instance Juventus, who played A.P.I.A. in their third Group 1 match when they had already qualified for the next round, were never going to give the Australian minnows a look in.

In the end a five goal defeat was probably generous as Juventus also hit two crossbars, missed a penalty and wasted at least three clear cut chances in front of goal.

So what makes the difference between a young player in Italy and a young player in Australia? The answer is time.

In Italy, given that children attend school for six days a week until about 1.00pm only, it frees up the afternoon for football training.

Children can train all year round in fairly good conditions in daylight and avoid the dreaded winter evening training sessions that is all too familiar in Australia.

The daily training regime and the Saturday afternoon or Sunday afternoon game, is in complete contrast to what happens in Australia.

Children here attend school for fairly long hours and, at best, train twice a week in the evenings and perhaps even less in winter.

The traditional Saturday morning game frees up the weekend but in reality this lack of training is precious time lost in the formation and development of a young player. Hence by the age of say 16 a young player is much more developed and skilful in Europe.

Australia also provides a range of other sports that are simply not available to young people in Europe. Other football codes and cricket in particular often end up taking away from football some of our very best players.

The legendary Australian cricketers, Steve and Mark Waugh, were excellent football players until they left school and could have been promising Socceros instead of cricketers. But, like so many others, they had to make a choice between sports.

There isn't a simple solution to our football problem; no one would seriously want to alter the school system or deny young people the variety of choices that Australian life presents but, perhaps, greater media coverage would be a starting point.

Coverage of football in Italy is at saturation point. It is very hard to avoid it no matter how hard you try. Children too therefore are fed a constant barrage of football highlights and shows and this can only influence their choice.

However, in Australia football coverage is largely dependant on a few sources such as SBS and ABSW. Greater coverage of this great game can only lead to a stronger desire by children to not only play the game, but also pursue it as an attractive career path.

The Football Federation of Australia with the new A-League has made it clear that it wishes to take football to a greater audience.

Sydney readers can tune into 98.5 FM on Sunday nights at 10.00pm for all the latest soccer news from the local and overseas competitions. Yours truly, Joseph Carlucci, Stuart Jones, John Romeo, Robert Scarselletta and Mark Stavroulakis are part of the team.



Cagliari's striker Mauro Esposito (centre) is fouled by Lecce's goalkeeper Vincenzo Scignano.

PALERMO 1
JUVENTUS 0

Juventus suffered a second successive defeat as they went down 1-0 at Palermo.

Franco Brienza's 13th-minute goal decided a pulsating contest and lifted Palermo to the lofty heights of sixth place.

Gianluigi Buffon could only punch Eugenio Corini's free-kick out as far as the edge of the box where Brienza was standing unmarked. The 25-year-old midfielder took one touch before sending a left-footed curler back past the outstretched hand of the Juve keeper.

AC MILAN 2
LAZIO 1

Champions AC Milan cut Juventus's lead at the top of Serie A to two points when a stoppage-time goal by Hernan Crespo earned them a 2-1 win over Lazio.

Milan appeared to be on the verge of their third defeat in four matches when Massimo Oddo put Lazio ahead from the penalty spot in the 56th minute.

With 18 minutes remaining, however, a superb 30-metre free kick by European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko put the hosts level.

It seemed the visitors would hold out for a point but, in the fourth minute of stoppage time, Crespo sealed a last-gasp victory by poking home the rebound after a Kaka shot struck the post.

PARMA 2
INTER MILAN 2

Ten-man Inter Milan hit two late goals to salvage a 2-2 draw at struggling Parma.

After Marco Materazzi had been sent off for a deliberate handball, Henrique Fabio Simplicio gave Parma the lead with a 36th minute penalty and Alberto Gilardino doubled the lead after 59 minutes as the hosts.

Ivan Cordoba pulled a goal back for the away side 15 minutes from the end, and then six minutes later Christian Vieri slotted home the equaliser from the penalty spot.

SAMPDORIA 1
FIorentina 0

Sampdoria had opponents Fiorentina to thank for an easy 3-0 win after the Viola had two men sent

off in the opening 10 minutes of their Serie A meeting.

The result was never in doubt once Valeri Bojinov and Daniele Delli Carri had been dismissed and goals from Francesco Flachi, Max Tonetto and Aimo Diana were the least Sampdoria deserved for a patient display.

CHIEVO 1
MESSINA 0

A first-half strike from top-scorer Simone Tiribocchi was enough to earn Chievo three points against Messina.

In their first meaningful attack, Franco Semioli skipped down the left-hand side before curling over a dangerous centre that was met with an equally good header from Tiribocchi.

It flashed past Marco Storari and into the Messina net to give Chievo the advantage and the striker his sixth of the season.

AS ROMA 1
BOLOGNA 1

Luigi Della Rocca's strike earned in-form Bologna a point from their clash against Rome at the Stadio Olimpico.

Della Rocca scored on the hour mark to cancel out Vincenzo Montella's ninth-minute opener and allow his team to maintain their positive run.

Roma failed to take advantage of numerous opportunities and were made to pay as the visitors proved they have avoided defeat in their last seven encounters.

REGGINA 3
SIENA 3

Reggina staged a stunning late comeback to steal a point from the jaws of defeat in a thrilling 3-3 draw at home to Siena.

Simone Vergassola opened the scoring for the visitors after just six minutes, and Reggina fell further behind when Enrico Chiesa doubled the lead after 26 minutes.

Ivan Franceschini halved the deficit just before the break, but Chiesa bagged his second goal of the afternoon 13 minutes into the second half to restore Siena's two-goal advantage.

However Marco Borriello pulled a goal back for Reggina nine minutes from the end of the match, and then two minutes later the home side completed an incredible fightback by making it 3-3 thanks to a strike from Carlos Paredes.

CAGLIARI 3
LECCE 1

The dismissal of Lecce goalkeeper Vincenzo Scignano proved the turning point in an otherwise even game at Sant'Elia that finished 3-1 to Cagliari.

Cagliari had edged ahead in the first half through Massimo Gobbi in an eye-catching display before taking their foot off the gas and allowing their mid-table visitors back into the match with a goal from Mirko Vucinic.

But when Scignano was sent off for a professional foul on Mauro Esposito, the game swung the home side's way and the 25-year-old Italian struck twice late on to seal the game for Cagliari.

BRESCIA 0
UDINESE 1

Udinese picked up an important three points that lifts them back into third place by beating Brescia 1-0.

A late goal from Vincenzo Iaquina settled the encounter in favour of the visitors from Udine at the Stadio Mario Rigamonti.

ATALANTA 1
LIVORNO 0

Atalanta beat Livorno 1-0 to claim only their second win of the season but they remain in desperate straights at the foot of the table.

Veteran defender Luigi Sala scored the only goal at the Stadio Atleti d'Azzurri after 23 minutes.

SERIE A

Sampdoria 3 Fiorentina 0, Palermo 1 Juventus 0, Roma 1 Bologna 1, Atalanta 1 Livorno 0, Brescia 0 Udinese 1, Cagliari 3 Lecce 1, Chievo 1 Messina 0, Parma 2 Inter Milan 2, Reggina 3 Siena 3, AC Milan 2 Lazio 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Juventus	23	15	5	3	38	14	50
2Milan	23	14	6	3	41	16	48
3Udinese	23	12	4	7	32	21	40
4Inter Milan	23	8	15	0	44	29	39
5Sampdoria	23	11	5	7	26	17	38
6Roma	23	9	8	6	42	34	35
7Palermo	23	9	8	6	22	16	35
8Cagliari	23	9	6	8	33	36	33
9Reggina	23	8	8	7	24	25	32
10Bologna	23	8	7	8	25	22	31
11Lecce	23	7	8	8	39	42	29
12Chievo	23	7	7	9	21	32	28
13Livorno	23	7	6	10	25	30	27
14Messina	23	7	6	10	27	37	27
15Lazio	23	6	6	11	29	35	24
16Fiorentina	23	5	8	10	21	30	23
17Parma	23	5	8	10	24	37	23
18Siena	23	3	12	8	21	33	21
19Brescia	23	5	5	13	15	29	20
20Atalanta	23	2	8	13	16	30	14

SERIE B

Arezzo 2 Verona 1, Catanzaro 2 Ascoli 3, Empoli 2 Triestina 0, Modena 2 Crotone 0, Perugia 1 Catania 1, Pescara 1 Treviso 0, Salernitana 4 Genoa 0, Venezia 3 Ternana 3, Vicenza 4 Albinoleffe 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Genoa	25	13	10	2	46	-24	49
2Empoli	25	12	8	5	36	-21	44
3Verona	25	12	5	8	45	-31	41
4Perugia	25	11	8	6	33	-22	41
5Torino	24	12	5	7	29	-22	41
6Treviso	25	12	5	8	29	-26	41
7Ascoli	25	11	7	7	35	-32	40
8Piacenza	24	11	2	11	29	-31	35
9Albinoleffe	25	9	7	9	36	-31	34
10Vicenza	25	10	4	11	40	-41	34
11.Cesena	24	9	7	8	30	-33	34
12Catania	25	7	11	7	26	-29	32
13Arezzo	25	6	13	6	35	-31	31
14Modena	25	10	5	10	27	-27	31
15Ternana	25	7	10	8	28	-30	31
16Pescara	25	7	9	9	25	-36	30
17Bari	24	6	11	7	24	-24	28
18Salernitana	25	7	6	12	33	-39	27
19Triestina	25	7	6	12	25	-35	27
20Crotone	25	5	8	12	24	-33	23
21Catanzaro	25	5	6	14	24	-45	21
22Venezia	25	4	7	14	19	-35	19

Modena handed four point deduction.
Bari docked a point for fan violence.

SERIE A FIXTURES

SUNDAY February 13

Lazio	vs.	Atalanta
Brescia	vs.	Cagliari
Lecce	vs.	Chievo
Siena	vs.	Messina
Reggina	vs.	AC Milan
Bologna	vs.	Palermo
Fiorentina	vs.	Parma
Inter	vs.	AS Roma
Livorno	vs.	Sampdoria
Juventus	vs.	Udinese

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

First Knockout Stage

Real Madrid (Spain) vs Juventus (Italy)
 Porto (Portugal) vs Inter Milan (Italy)
 Barcelona (Spain) vs Chelsea (England)
 Werder Bremen (Germany) vs Olympique
 Lyon (France)
 Liverpool (England) vs Bayer Leverkusen
 (Germany)
 PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) vs AS
 Monaco (France)
 Manchester United (England) vs AC Milan
 (Italy)
 Bayern Munich (Germany) vs Arsenal
 (England)

First Knockout Stage

First leg - February 22-23
 Second leg - March 8-9
 Note: Inter Milan will play the second leg
 of their tie on March 15.

Quarter-finals

First leg - April 5-6
 Second leg - April 12-13

Semi-finals

First leg - April 26-27
 Second leg - May 3-4

Final:

May 25, Istanbul

UEFA CUP

FIRST KNOCKOUT STAGE

Graz AK (Austria) vs Middlesbrough
 (England)
 Heerenveen (Netherlands) vs Newcastle
 United (England)
 Basel (Switzerland) vs Lille (France)
 Parma (Italy) vs VfB Stuttgart (Germany)
 Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) vs Feyenoord
 (Netherlands)
 Alemannia Aachen (Germany) vs AZ
 Alkmaar (Netherlands)
 Austria Vienna (Austria) vs Athletic
 Bilbao (Spain)
 Partizan Belgrade (Serbia & Mont.) vs
 Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine)
 Valencia (Spain) vs Steaua Bucharest
 (Romania)
 Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) vs AJ
 Auxerre (France)
 CSKA Moscow (Russia) vs Benfica
 (Portugal)
 Fenerbahce (Turkey) vs Real Zaragoza
 (Spain)
 Panathinaikos (Greece) vs Sevilla (Spain)
 Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukraine) vs Schalke 04
 (Germany)
 Olympiakos (Greece) vs Sochaux (France)
 Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) vs Villarreal
 (Spain)

First Knockout Stage

First leg - February 16-17
 Second leg - February 24

Second Knockout Stage

First leg - March 10
 Second leg - March 16-17

Quarter-finals

First leg - April 7
 Second leg - April 14

Semi-finals

First leg - April 28
 Second leg - May 5

Final

May 18, Lisbon



UEFA CUP

BELGIAN JUPILER LEAGUE

Lierse 0 Club Brugge 2, Beveren 3 Sint-
 Truiden 1, Brussels 0 Standard Liege 1,
 Mouscron 1 Lokeren 1, Oostende 1 Mons-
 Bergen 0, Racing Genk 1 La Louviere 0, Gent
 0 Anderlecht 0, Cercle Bruges 0 Westerlo 0,
 Charleroi 1 Germinal Beerschot 0.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Club Brugge	21	18	2	1	58	13 56
2Anderlecht	19	13	3	3	42	19 42
3Genk	21	12	6	3	32	20 42
4Standard	21	12	4	5	37	21 40
5Charleroi	21	11	5	5	28	21 38
6La Louviere	20	10	4	6	30	18 34
7AA Gent	21	10	4	7	31	24 34
8Westerlo	21	9	3	9	21	31 30
9Lokeren	21	8	6	7	26	26 30
10Lierse	21	8	4	9	37	36 28
11Beveren	21	7	4	10	29	35 25
12Mouscron	21	6	4	11	29	30 22
13Cercle	21	6	4	11	28	53 22
14Beerschot	21	5	5	11	18	24 20
15Truiden	21	5	5	11	24	38 20
16Mons	20	4	3	13	23	36 15
17Brussels	21	4	2	15	18	41 14
18Oostende	21	2	6	13	19	44 12

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Hajduk	18	11	2	5	32	18 35
2Rijeka	18	9	6	3	31	18 33
3Varteks	18	10	1	7	37	24 31
4Inter	18	9	3	6	22	18 30
5Osijek	18	7	7	4	26	26 28
6Slaven	18	8	4	6	17	20 28
7Dinamo	18	7	6	5	31	23 27
8Kamen	18	8	2	8	23	21 26
9Zagreb	18	7	3	8	22	21 24
10Pula	18	4	6	8	16	22 18
11Zadar	18	4	1	13	22	45 13
12Medimurje	18	2	3	13	14	37 9

DUTCH EREDIVISIE

De Graafschap 2 Feyenoord 7, Willem II 3
 NEC Nijmegen 1, Den Haag 2 Den Bosch 0,
 Heerenveen 1 AZ Alkmaar 3, Ajax 1 Twente
 Enschede 2, Utrecht 2 NAC Breda 0, RKC
 Waalwijk 3 Groningen 0, Vitesse Arnhem 3
 Roda JC 0.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1PSV	20	16	3	1	54	12 51
2Alkmaar	20	15	4	1	49	14 49
3Ajax	20	12	5	3	44	19 41
4Feyenoord	20	10	5	5	50	27 35
5Vitesse	20	10	3	7	34	27 33
6Heerenveen	20	9	5	6	34	33 32
7Utrecht	20	9	5	6	25	21 32
8Roda	20	8	5	7	36	31 29
9NAC	20	7	6	7	28	40 27
10Waalwijk	20	7	6	7	26	27 27
11Groningen	20	7	4	9	28	36 25
12Willem II	20	7	4	9	25	33 25
13Twente	20	7	4	9	24	26 25
14Den Haag	20	5	4	11	23	31 19
15NEC	20	4	7	9	22	28 19
16Roosenda	20	3	2	15	21	51 11
17Graafschap	20	2	5	13	21	51 11
18Den Bosch	20	2	3	15	11	48 9

ENGLAND FOOTBALL LGE 2

Northampton 2 Cambridge 2, Swansea 1
 Southend 1, Bristol 3 Grimsby 0, Bury 0
 Darlington 1, Cheltenham 2 Rochdale 0,
 Chester 3 Rushden & Diamonds 1, Lincoln 3
 Oxford 0, Macclesfield 3 Yeovil 1, Notts
 County 0 Mansfield 1, Scunthorpe 2
 Kidderminster 1, Shrewsbury 4 Leyton
 Orient 1, Wycombe 1 Boston 2.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil	30	17	5	8	62	44 56
Scunthorpe	30	16	8	6	47	29 56
Swansea	30	17	5	8	44	27 56
Macclesfield	31	15	6	10	43	34 51
Southend	31	14	8	9	44	36 50
Lincoln City	30	13	9	8	44	31 48
Darlington	31	13	8	10	38	33 47
Northampton	29	12	9	8	40	35 45
Boston Utd	30	11	11	8	41	34 44
Cheltenham	31	11	11	9	35	30 44
Rochdale	30	11	9	10	35	34 42
Leyton Orient	31	10	12	9	44	46 42
Bristol Rovers	31	9	14	8	37	32 41
Oxford Utd	31	11	8	12	32	40 41
Mansfield	30	10	10	10	32	28 40
Wycombe	30	10	10	10	31	32 40
Grimsby	30	10	9	11	37	36 39
Bury	30	8	11	11	36	36 35
Chester	31	7	13	11	28	44 34

Notts County 30 8 8 14 28 40 32
 Shrewsbury 30 7 9 14 31 40 30
 Rushden & D' 31 6 10 15 27 44 28
 Kidderminster 31 7 3 21 24 58 24
 Cambridge Utd 31 3 12 16 27 44

FRENCH LIGUE 1

Lille 0 Sochaux 0, Ajaccio 0 Istres 0, Auxerre
 2 Saint-Etienne 2, Bordeaux 0 Bastia 0, Lyon
 4 Toulouse 0, Marseille 3 Rennes 1, Nantes
 0 Monaco 0, Nice 1 Metz 1, Strasbourg 5
 Caen 0, Paris St Germain 0 Lens 2.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Lyon	25	14	10	1	35	12 52
2Lille	25	12	9	4	30	16 45
3Marseille	25	13	5	7	33	23 44
4Monaco	24	11	10	3	34	20 43
5Auxerre	25	12	6	7	36	26 42
6Sochaux	25	9	8	8	30	23 35
7Toulouse	25	9	8	8	26	26 35
8Bordeaux	25	6	14	5	26	22 32
9Rennes	25	9	5	11	26	30 32
10St Etienne	24	6	13	5	29	22 31
11Lens	25	7	10	8	25	25 31
12PSG	25	6	12	7	25	28 30
13Metz	25	7	9	9	22	31 30
14Nice	25	6	11	8	29	34 29
15Nantes	25	6	9	10	20	24 27
16Strasbourg	24	5	9	10	26	31 24
17Caen	25	5	9	11	18	42 24
18Ajaccio	24	4	11	9	18	26 23
19Bastia	25	5	8	12	18	31 23
20Istres	25	2	12	11	14	28 18

HELLENIC NATIONAL LEAGUE

Panionios 0 Olympiakos 2.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Olympiacos	17	12	4	1	33	9 40
2AEK	17	9	7	1	25	13 34
3PAO	17	10	3	4	28	11 33
4Xanthi	17	8	5	4	26	20 29
5PAOK	17	7	4	6	23	23 25
6Egaleo	17	5	9	3	16	13 24
7Halkidona	17	5	7	5	16	15 22
8OFI	17	5	5	7	22	25 20
9Panionios	17	5	5	7	11	15 20
10Kallithea	17	4	7	6	24	26 19
11Iraklis	17	5	4	8	15	19 19
12Aris	17	3	9	5	15	19 18
13Ionikos	17	4	5	8	11	22 17
14Ergotelis	17	4	3	10	14	29 15
15Kalamarias	17	3	6	8	13	24 15
16Kerkira	17	3	5	9	12	21 14

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

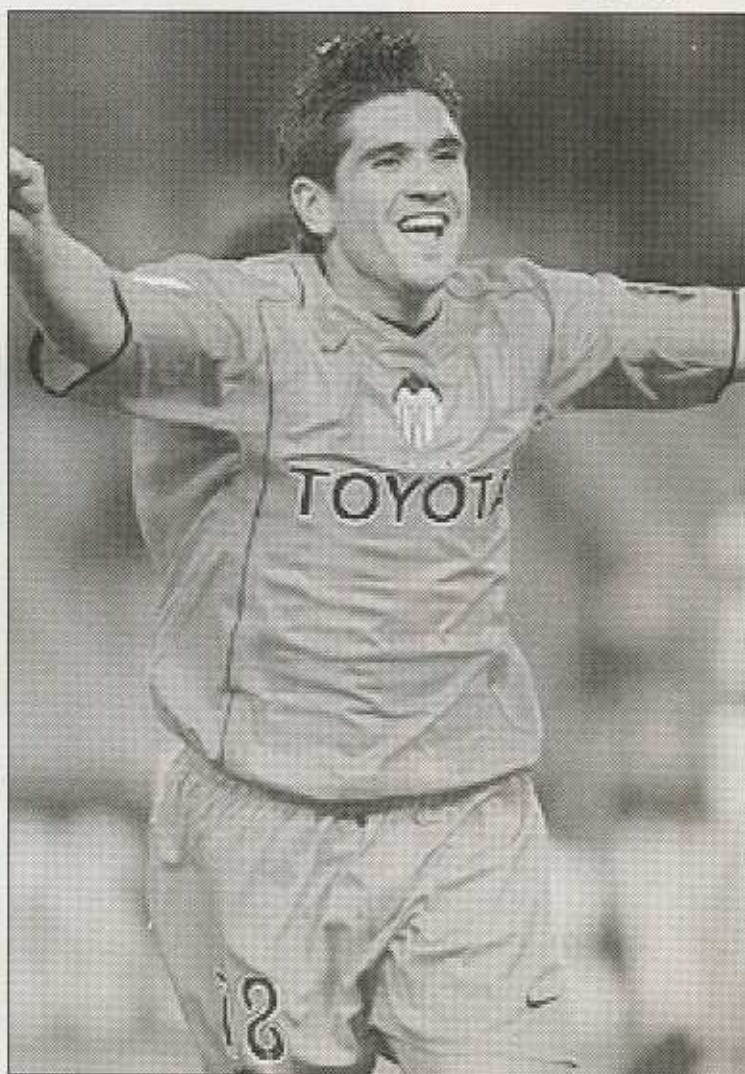
Bayern Munich 2 Bayer Leverkusen 0,
 Bochum 1 Arminia Bielefeld 1, Hannover 1
 Borussia Dortmund 3, Hansa Rostock 2
 Schalke 2, Mainz 0 Bertha Berlin 3,
 Nurnberg 1 Hamburg 3, Stuttgart 1
 Kaiserslautern 1, Moenchengladbach 3
 Freiburg 2, Wolfsburg 2 Werder Bremen 3.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Bayern	20	12	5	3	38	20 41
2Schalke	20	12	2	6	30	26 38
3Stuttgart	20	10	5	5	38	26 35
4Bremen	20	10	4	6	43	25 34
5Hertha	20	8	9	3	33	17 33
6Leverkusen	20	9	5	6	35	27 32
7Hamburg	20	10	1	9	35	30 31
8Hannover	20	9	4	7	26	22 31
9Wolfsburg	20	10	0	10	35	32 30
10Kaiser	20	8	4	8	28	28 28
11Dortmund	20	6	7	7	23	25 25
12Arminia	20	7	4	9	20	26 25
13Nurnberg	20	6	6	8	34	34 24
14Munchen	20	6	6	8	25	33 24
15Mainz	20	6	4	10	27	35 22
16Bochum	20	3	7	10	26	42 16
17Freiburg	20	3	6	11	17	41 15
18Hansa	20	2	7	11	17	41 13

PORTUGUESE SUPERLIGA

Gulmaras 1 Braga 0, Rio Ave 1 Penafiel 0,
 Uniao Leiria 1 Belemenses 0, Estoril 1 Porto
 2, Gil Vicente 2 Beira Mar 0, Nacional 4
 Moreirense 1, Maritimo 3 Sporting Lisbon 0,
 Vitoria Setubal vs Boavista - Tuesday AEDT.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Porto	20	10	7	3	26	14 37
2Benfica	20	11	4	5	33	21 37
3Braga	20	10	6	4	29	15 36
4Sporting	20	10	5	5	41	27 35
5Boavista	19	10	4	5	24	23 34
6Maritimo	20	8	9	3	23	16 33
7Rio Ave	20	7	10	3	27	22 31
8Gulmaras	20	8	5	7	20	18 29



Valencia's Francisco J. Munoz 'Xisco' celebrates his goal against Real Sociedad.

9Setbal	19	8	4	7	27	22 28
10Leiria	20	6	9	5	20	19 27
11Nacional	20	8	3	9	27	29 27
12Belenenses	20	7	4	9	29	27 25
13Gil Vicente	20	6	5	9	22	24 23
14Penafiel	20	6	2	12	18	36 20
15Estoril	20	5	4	11	23	29 19
16Moreirense	20	3	8	9	17	30 17
17Beira-Mar	20	4	5	11	21	39 17
18Academica	20	3	4	13	14	30 13

SCOTTISH FA CUP LAST 16

Aberdeen 2 Inverness CT 1, Alloa Athletic 0
 Livingston 1, Hearts 2 Kilmarnock 2,
 Hibernian 4 Brechin City 0, Queen of the
 South 0 Dundee Utd 3, Ross County 0 Clyde
 0, Ayr United 0 St Mirren 2, Dunfermline 0
 Celtic 3.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	24	20	2	2	53	19 62



Troy Halpin

PLAYER PROFILE #11

CLUB: Central Coast United

AGE: 31

FORMER CLUBS: Perth Glory,
Wollongong Wolves,
Newcastle Breakers,
Sydney Olympic



Image by Carlos Furtado